

The Middlebury Campus

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Since 1905



Angela Evancie

Firefighters blockaded Main Street and diverted traffic on Tuesday to deal with a blaze inside the Marquis Theater.

Marquis Theatre catches fire

By Tamara Hilmes
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Though she had grown up being told never to yell "fire!" in a movie theater, Dierdra Michelle found herself doing just that, or almost, when she was the first to notice the fire at the Marquis Theater on Main Street. Shortly after noon on Tuesday, Michelle, a sales clerk at Forth and Goal, was sitting out on the cement steps in front of the store eating her lunch when she noticed that smoke was escaping from the northern-most corner of the

theater's roof.

"I saw smoke coming out of the corner of the roof," said Michelle, "and I thought it was just the theater's heat running. Then I noticed that the corner was charred and I ran inside and said to my boss, 'Dan, I think there might be a fire over there.'"

After alerting her boss about the suspect smoke that was being emitted from the theater's roof, Michelle ran over to Ben Franklin to alert the store's employees of the situation.

"I ran over to Ben Franklin right away," continued Michelle, "and I

said, 'You guys might wanna get out of here. Your roof is on fire!'"

"Dierdra ran over and told us that there was smoke coming out of

SEE SMOKE, PAGE 7

Committee reviews, reverses Essig ruling

By Scott Greene
NEWS EDITOR

In a largely unprecedented move, the College's Reappointments Committee last week reversed its decision regarding the tenure-track contract of Assistant Professor of Sociology Laurie Essig after a decision last month by the Appeals Committee found procedural errors in the original review. The ruling was well-received by faculty, students and administrators alike, though it is the next step in a controversy that has brought the College's reappointments system under a microscope of scrutiny.

Essig expressed relief at the news

of the decision and gratitude for the support her case received from the College community.

"I was so overwhelmed by the response in the beginning," she said, "and now it is truly overwhelming to think about what people did on my behalf and that they actually turned it around."

When reached for comment, President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz said he was pleased with the outcome as a validation of the system's overall effectiveness, as did College Provost Allison Byerly.

"I am glad that our review and

SEE CRITICS, PAGE 4

Fee anxiety tops parental concerns

By Brian Fung
NEWS EDITOR

Getting a small, thin envelope in the mail from a top college or university typically spells disappointment for hopeful students seeking their place in higher education. And as long as competition and selectivity remain watchwords of the college admissions game, that kind of anxiety is unlikely to fade.

These days, however, it may

be parents' turn to worry as another type of small, thin envelope threatens to eclipse the first. Rather than expressing regret or sympathy, this communiqué is far more dispassionate, packed to the margins with numbers and breakdowns and other calculations.

What parents dread today isn't a rejection letter — it's a tuition bill.

College costs have skyrocketed to new heights in recent

years, with students enrolled at private four-year institutions like Middlebury paying on average 30 percent more for their education than they did just a decade ago, according to data provided by The College Board. And the trend shows few signs of slowing. With many schools annually hiking their rates by between five- and 5.5 percent — and in some cases

SEE COMPREHENSIVE, PAGE 5

Hazing prompts a capella suspension

By Anthony Adragna
NEWS EDITOR

College administrators suspended the Stuck in the Middle (SIM) a cappella group for the rest of semester after finding the group committed hazing violations.

Allegations of the hazing incident came to the attention of the College during the first week of March, Dean of the College Tim Spears said. The hazing occurred during the final week of February when SIM was inducting new members into their ranks.

Word of the hazing came from a source outside of the College, Spears said.

"The College received a phone call from a person off campus who was concerned that hazing might be occurring," Spears said. "This call came into Public Safety. They then followed up with interviews with members of SIM."

In the complaint, the caller

voiced concern over activities SIM held for new members.

"The reporting party raised concerns about activities that a person joining a student organization participated in as part of an induction process," Assistant Director of Public Safety Dan Gaiotti said.

Director of the Center of Campus Activities and Learning (CCAL) Doug Adams said administrators agreed on a punishment following an exhaustive interview process.

"The group has been suspended for the rest of this term and we've asked the current leadership to step down," Adams said. "The group can re-form starting next fall. CCAL worked in concert with the Dean of the College's Office and determined the length of the punishment given the situation."

Spears said the group was helpful during the investigation of the hazing allegations.

SEE SINGING, PAGE 3

Applicant numbers reach new heights

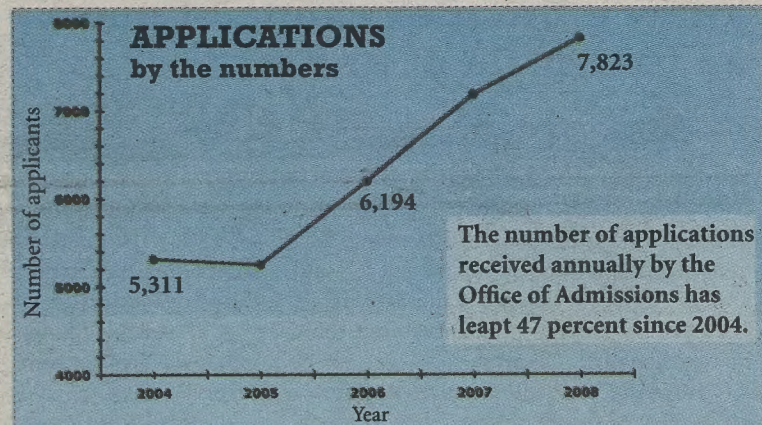
By Ilana Prior
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Admissions sent out letters of acceptance to over 1,400 prospective students on March 28. This year, the College saw the largest applicant pool ever, with 7,823 prospective students vying for 570 September-enrollment spots in the Class of 2012, and 90 February-admission spots for the Class of 2012.5. The acceptance rate was a mere 18 percent, down five percent from last year.

The number of applicants has nearly doubled in five years, while class sizes have remained relatively stable. Bob Clagett, dean of Admissions, said that the increase in applicants has made this a "really tough year to be admitted to Middlebury."

Clagett believed that recognition of Middlebury as one of the best liberal-arts schools in the country is growing, in part because "the international studies, environmental studies and foreign language programs are resonating really deeply with people in the country and the world."

The extensive travel of the admissions staff within the United States has also greatly increased the



Graphic by Brian Fung

College's profile. In recent years, the staff has concentrated particularly on the southern, southwestern and western regions of the U.S. These are areas where high-school graduates typically attend college at lower rates and prefer to stay in-state. The results of this effort are evident — while the Northeast, Midwest, mid-Atlantic and South all had between a

four- and six-percent increase in the number of applications, applications from the Southwest region increased a dramatic 25 percent from last year.

In addition, the admissions staff has made efforts to connect with urban outreach organizations to reach lower-income students and students of color. This move is part

SEE ADMISSIONS, PAGE 4



Angela Evancie

RIDES OF SPRING

Kevin Redmon '09.5 and Mackey Franklin '10 true a wobbly wheel in the newly-reopened Student Bike Shop in Adirondack House.

this week



Bye Bye, U.S.A.?
Groups of Vermonters want to secede from the Union, page 6



Political Activism
Features chronicles the evolution of political activism at Midd, page 14

Wallpaper Art
Spotlight shines on Artist-in-Residence Heimo Wallner, page 19



Community Council approves first-year rush

By Michelle Constant
STAFF WRITER

On April 7, the Community Council approved a motion to ask President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz to allow second-semester students to pledge social houses. For an hour and a half, over 30 faculty members, administrators and students gathered to debate whether the pledge process should be extended to include students from all four classes. All five social houses were represented at the meeting.

The Community Council has recently had a number of discussions regarding social house issues. Last week, the Inter-House Council provided the Council with its agenda and defense for allowing second-semester students to pledge social houses.

Council student representative Dean Atyia '08.5 raised two of the first questions regarding the new proposition. He questioned whether allowing second semester students to pledge social houses may result in members that lack commitment or may cause these students to miss out on other opportunities.

"Any organization that requires extended commitment to a group will always be a large part of your social life," responded Omega Alpha member Alpheus Chan '08. "I don't think that it detracts from my involvement in college or community activities."

Social house members argued that joining a house is no different than joining a sports team, performing arts group or stu-

Community Council members voiced many other concerns about extending social house membership to first-year students. They questioned how first-years can get involved in social houses without becoming members. Council member Michael Glidden suggested a "members without pledge" category for students. Social house members could add first-years to their mailing lists and invite them to events, while not allowing them to pledge until sophomore year.

Council members were concerned with whether pledging a social house as a first-year detracts from student abilities to find other "families" on campus. Dean of the College and co-chair of the Council Tim Spears added that allowing first-years to pledge would also further divide September from February students. When February students enter the College, their September first-year peers may already be committing themselves to a social group.

In response to social house members' claims that joining a social house is no bigger a commitment than joining a sports team, Spears argued that first-year students will not choose to pledge a social house instead of a sports team, but in addition to their other activities.

"We will be adding yet another layer. More pressures will ensue," said Spears. "I am concerned about the opportunity cost to locking into a social group in your first year. What are you giving up? Pledge is a deep process that requires emotional and time commitment."

If you pledge freshman year, you get to know a broader range of people under an umbrella of unity.

—Natalie Sammarco '08

dent government association.

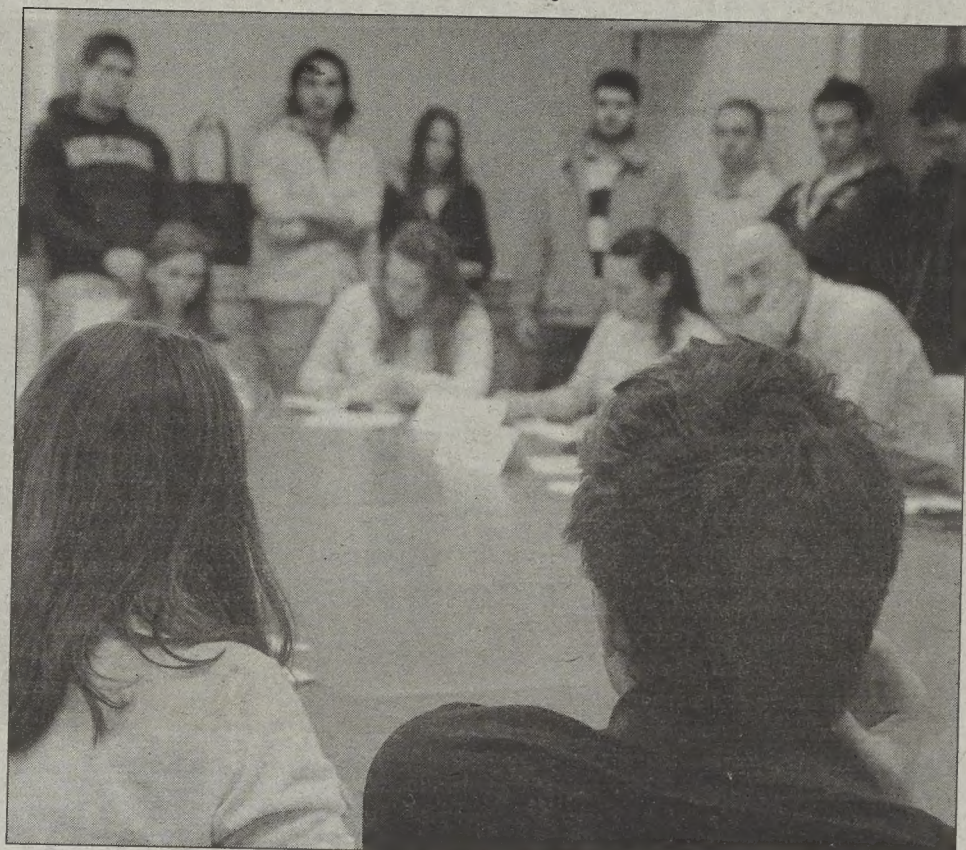
"Everyone chooses their level of commitment in a social house in the same way as someone involved in an IM sport," said Omega Alpha President Natalie Sammarco. "You can go to every game or you can show up occasionally."

However, Student Council Appointee Molly Dwyer disputed that when students joins Varsity sport teams, they are aware of the expected level of commitment because they have been competing in their sport for many years. Pledging a social house is an unfamiliar experience.

Despite Council members concerns of first-year students over-committing themselves, social house members made their own compelling arguments in favor of advancing the pledge process.

"If you pledge freshman year, you get to know a broader range of people under an umbrella of unity," said Sammarco.

Social house members also responded to Community Council concerns about how advancing the pledge process will benefit the community. Delta House President Chris Angelini '08 said that his house has cookouts, tailgates and other events that are open



Andrew Ngeow

Social house leaders crowded Old Chapel to hear Community Council debate pledge policy.

to the whole community, not just members. For example, they had a cookout at Bread Loaf during Winter Carnival ski races, at which anyone could eat and learn about Delta House.

Omega Alpha member Ellie Molyneux '08 added that being part of a social house helps to organize for community events like Relay for Life that require large groups of volunteers.

Social house members responded to Spears, arguing that that pledge process does not add pressure to students. Instead, it helps students to balance their lives and prioritize their work and activities. A few students claimed that their grades were actually higher in the semester during which they pledged.

The Mill President Xander Manshel '09 wants first-years to have the opportunity to view social houses as more than "fraternities."

"The bread-and-butter of social houses are not the big parties," said Manshel. "It's the study sessions, the informal dinners, the coming-together of multiple affinity groups."

According to members of Xenia, an

overwhelming number of second-semester students came to the house to rush this spring. Despite their interest, these students were told they could not yet join. Xenia members argued that if first-years were allowed to pledge, more students would know about the social houses. This would improve the overall social life of the College.

After a long debate, social house members convinced Community Council members that allowing second-semester students would add to the experience of the individual students, the house and the community as a whole. By pledging social houses a semester earlier, students may advance their chances of finding their places at the College and begin helping the community.

"When you join a social house sophomore year, you are really ready to get involved," said Angelini. "Then you go abroad, sometimes for a semester, sometimes for a whole year. There is no opportunity to get involved early and to take on leadership roles."

If Liebowitz approves the recommendation of the Council, second-semester students will be permitted to pledge social

AlertFind emergency system passes first test

By Eleanor Horowitz
STAFF WRITER

Text messages and e-mails were delivered to 2,802 members of the College community during the first test of the emergency notification system AlertFind on Wednesday, April 2. The campus-wide test helped identify glitches and problems with the system and is part of the College's ongoing efforts of emergency planning.

In executing the test, planners expected to find some setbacks with AlertFind in the hopes of smoothing them out before a real implementation of the system is needed.

"There is a reason why we do an all-campus test — it is to identify the problems," said John Emerson who has led the AlertFind initiative while serving as co-chair of the Emergency Planning Steering Committee.

In Wednesday's test, AlertFind delivered 1,271 text messages and 1,531 e-mails. An additional 306 text messages were cancelled after four hours of failed delivery, and 12 students reported messages with no content or jumbled characters.

Text message failures may have been caused by conflict with cell phone carriers, incorrectly entered numbers on BannerWeb, changed numbers since the time of entry on BannerWeb or a student being on leave for the semester or abroad with a disabled phone.

E-mail issues encountered included de-

livery delays of anywhere from 40 minutes to two hours. Since the e-mail is sent by an outside source to a mass group, the message was delayed in the Middlebury SPAM filter, a coding glitch that has since been fixed. Students who forward their e-mail to another address, such as Gmail, reported that the message got stuck in their SPAM filter, an external prob-

We only want to use it when we really need to because we want people to take it seriously.

—John Emerson

lem more difficult to solve.

The College chose the AlertFind system in early 2007 because of its versatility and ability to send messages via text message, automated phone message, e-mail and pager. The system also offers an escalation scale that prioritizes message format and can send the message to each format until successfully received.

In a separate test for faculty and staff, the escalation was used and required a confirmation reply. The first message went to cell phone, second to campus e-mail, and third to office phone. "The message goes sequentially and if you don't respond it keeps hassling," said Emerson.

Students were informed of the AlertFind test one day before the test message. The e-mail asked students to reply if they encountered problems receiving the message, but it did not require confirmation.

"I hadn't read the e-mail, I just got the text and didn't know what it was about," said Daniela Tsoneva '11. "The text said to respond if there were problems, but I didn't understand what problems I could even have."

For others the test ran unsuccessfully and without any knowledge of the test.

"I've never heard of this," said Julia Ireland '11, who did not receive a message from AlertFind. "I had no idea that people were even receiving texts and e-mails."

Despite the confusion, the message caused little disruption to daily life and was delivered successfully to the majority of students, but some felt uneasy with the system.

"Personally I feel we should have done this earlier, and I know others find it annoying to have to give away personal information," said Jee Yeon Park '08.

The Emergency Planning Steering Com-

mittee has taken sensitive care to safeguard the information involved with AlertFind, particularly cell phone numbers.

While the test was sent to all students, the ultimate use of AlertFind will most likely be geared towards smaller groups with more specific messages. Typically, issues concerning the entire campus can be handled with an e-mail or a posted notice on the College Web site. AlertFind will be used for situations such as the train derailment in the fall when it would have been helpful to notify students living off-campus near town, according to Emerson.

"We only want to use it when we really need to because we want people to take it seriously when it is used," said Emerson. "We hate to impose and inconvenience people."

The AlertFind test marks another step in the Emergency Response Plan that formally began with the development of the Emergency Planning Steering Committee in the fall of 2006. The plan includes everything from pandemic flu response to locating reliable flashlights at the Breadloaf campus. Most issues that the Committee deals with are "invisible, with the only reason a student would have interest in it is if it fails," said Emerson.

"We are at the point where we have a pretty comprehensive plan in place," he said, "but it is evolutionary and it will continue to develop."

SGA gears up for '09-'10 leadership elections

By Jaime Fuller
STAFF WRITER

Elections will be held on April 17 for the positions of Student Government Association (SGA) President and Student Co-Chair of Community Council (SCCOCC). By 5 p.m. today, the candidates will have turned in their petitions and letters of intent and the campaigning will officially begin.

On March 4, Max Nardini '08, current SGA president, gave an informational meeting for all potential candidates for these two positions. Many students attended the meeting, but as last year's unopposed victor Nardini attested, the field quickly winnows down.

Among those students who have decided to brave the campaigning process in order to get their voices heard are juniors Mike Tierney and Hiba Fakhoury. Both students have already established themselves as leaders in the Middlebury community and hope to use the position of SGA president to further their goals. Fakhoury is a First-Year Counselor from Brainerd Commons who also volunteers for the Middlebury Fire Department. This is the second election that Tierney has taken part in, as he tried out his campaigning skills running for the position of SCCOCC in his sophomore year, coming in second place.

Even though the campaigning period has not begun, both of these candidates have established a platform they believe will appeal to the student body.

"The main things I hope to accomplish

are simple," wrote Tierney in an e-mail. "Money-saving steps to making the College greener, clearing walkways of ice and better drainage on campus, the housing situation, the social scene and getting us back our juice!"

Fakhoury is currently studying abroad and must rely on her network of friends to spread her message while she is thousands of miles away.

"It is certainly more stressful not to be there and I will have to spend more time on e-mails — and of course, Facebook," wrote

If I were elected, my first act in office would be to dissolve the SGA.

—Andrew Ward '09

Fakhoury in an e-mail. "But I believe that the help of my friends on-campus will make it possible."

Like Tierney, she also hopes to improve the campus's social life, but she also has a variety of aspects of Middlebury she wishes to improve. Her platform includes a call for more laundry facilities, campus-wide wireless Internet, extended hours for MiddRides and an online forum to increase involvement with SGA.

Antoinette Rangel '09 has shown interest for the position of Student Co-Chair of Community Council. She has served on the

Community Council for two years and is ready to become an even more active member.

"As Co-Chair, I'd like to bring a range of issues to the Council," wrote Rangel in an e-mail. "Everything from evaluating the student work load, to addressing issues of the environment and sustainability, to assessing the quality of social life, to tackling subjects surrounding diversity."

All of the candidates seem to recognize that the student body desires change, especially in the arenas of social life and sus-

tainability, and their similar platforms reflect this call for improvement. Andrew Ward '09, potential SGA presidential candidate,

has a different idea of how to enact change on campus.

"I feel as if the SGA is just playing satellite government to [President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz's] five-year plan," wrote Ward in an e-mail. "That is why, if I were elected, my first act in office would be to dissolve the SGA."

As Nardini stated at the informational meeting, the two positions are very time-consuming and can take up many hours of the representative's week. But he thinks the positive aspects of the positions more than

make up for the deficits it creates in personal time.

"Despite the fact that sometimes things would happen too quickly and be a little stressful, I really enjoyed being there for fellow students," said Nardini.

The SGA President's responsibilities include coordinating the work of the SGA Cabinet and Senate and staying in close contact with administrators regarding a large number of issues.

However, Nardini said, "One thing I have learned is the only power is the power to persuade."

This year's election is taking place a few weeks earlier than normal, and this is a part of Nardini's plan to make sure the next SGA president is equipped with all the knowledge he or she needs to be a successful representative.

"Last year, the elections were held in the last week of classes and that was not pleasant for me," said Nardini. "By holding the elections in the second half of April, it will better enable whoever wins to ask a lot of the questions [I had]."

Nardini ended the meeting by telling the potential candidates to enjoy the campaigning process, and that "one of the best parts of being SGA president was campaigning."

"I went around handing out lollipops and candy and had a great time," said Nardini. "It was a great experience to meet people all over campus regardless of the outcome [of the race]."

by Bryant Cobb,
Staff Writer

Singing group suffers penalty for hazing gaffe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I want to add that in these interviews membership was very cooperative with the Public Safety investigation," he said.

Members of SIM declined to comment about the incident.

Although alcohol is often present in hazing activities, it was not the cause of the investigation in SIM's case.

"Often alcohol is involved in hazing incidents," Associate Dean of the College Gus Jordan said. "In this particular situation it wasn't the use of alcohol that brought the activities to our attention."

While declining to give specifics of the hazing, Jordan acknowledged it did not pose any immediate danger to participants.

"In the range of possible ways in which a group might engage in hazing, it was pretty clear to us that this particular group was at the lower end of this spectrum," Jordan said. "It wasn't our feeling that the individuals were in any kind of danger."

Adams cautioned that the administration took its responsibility to enforce anti-hazing policies strictly, given that a situation could become serious rapidly.

"If this type of behavior happens, we want to know about it," he said. "The worst-case scenario is too easy to get to. It's a slippery slope that's very fast. Joining a student group should be about mutual respect."

Jordan said hazing occurs the moment group leaders do not participate in an activity with new members.

"The moment there's that kind of distinction between what the leadership or group members and what the new members are doing we're in the category of hazing," he said.

The College Handbook also states "conduct is still hazing even if the person against whom the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity."

Members of the College community have different views about the prevalence of hazing throughout student groups. Director of Health and Wellness Jyoti Daniere feels the College

has hazing concerns, but that new programming about hazing would come to campus next fall.

"I believe there is a problem with hazing at Middlebury as there is on many campuses across the country," she said. "When the Gordie Foundation came to campus in March, their documentary 'Haze' looked at this problem. We plan on inviting the Gordie Foundation back next year to meet with student leaders to explore of ending this kind of practice on our campus. Doug Adams and I are hoping to do some specific programming in the fall around hazing as well."

Adams said that hazing remains a problem nationally, but that the College has attempted to combat the practice.

"Hazing is an issue on college campuses," he said. "We have specific policies at Middlebury College and Vermont has laws prohibiting hazing. We take it very seriously."

If this type of behavior happens, we want to know about it.
— Doug Adams

In becoming a student organization, groups say they will obey those rules."

Spears did not speculate about the prevalence of hazing in the College community.

"One of the response that you do hear from students is that 'we're not the only ones who do this,'" he

said. "The degree to which that is true is something that students more than administrators will be able to answer."

Student Government Association President Max Nardini believes that hazing is not a normal occurrence on campus.

"Obviously hazing is a big deal, though I'm not sure how big of an issue it is on campus in general," he said. "This incident is definitely concerning, but I wouldn't go so far as to say it represents the 'norm.'"

Even if hazing is not a frequent practice on campus, Daniere said the psychological effects can be devastating to victims.

"I think one of the most important points to make is that hazing is less about initiation and more about intimidation and emotional abuse," she said. "Both the perpetrators and victims of hazing are damaged by the process. Psychological torment and coercion

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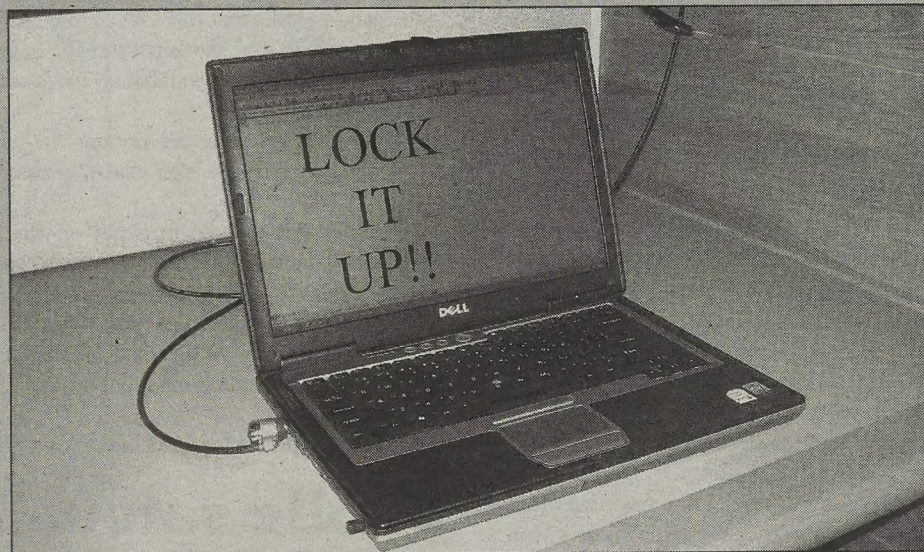
College drills to curb computer theft

In response to a student request received by the Dean of Library and Information Services last year, Facilities Services has drilled holes in 300 study carrels in Middlebury's libraries to reduce and prevent laptop theft. The laptop lockdown cables are relatively easy to use. There is a small key at one end that allows the user to connect the cable to the computer, and the other end of the cable can be wrapped around the newly drilled holes in order to anchor the computer to the study carrel. Originally, Facilities Services thought of installing hardware into the carrels but soon realized that drilling holes in carrels was easier and more cost-effective. The purpose of the cables and the holes is to avoid computer theft on campus. Over the past year, library staff has noted that there have been some laptop thefts in the libraries.

"There have been laptops stolen from the library when students left them for just a few minutes, to go get coffee, search for a book, etc.," wrote Preservation and Process-

ing Manager Joseph Watson in an e-mail. Before Library and Information Services requested that Facilities drill the holes, it was nearly impossible for students to use the laptop lockdown cables in conjunction with study carrels, as there was no place where students could connect the cables to the carrels.

In order to encourage students to use the laptop lockdown cables, Library and Information Services has begun a vigorous campaign to inform students that it is now easier than ever to avoid laptop theft. Students going to the library for the remainder of the year will see signs that encourage students to buy lockdown cables from the College Book Store and regularly use them in the library. According to Watson, "It is now up to individuals to take the responsibility to ensure that their computers are safe in libraries. Library and Information Services and Facilities Services have made it much easier for students to keep their laptops safer."



Courtesy

The newly drilled holes in library carrels should help students keep their laptops secure.

are at the core of many hazing practices and the student leaders involved with these events need to question why they would want to inflict emotional damage on another human being. Another part of the problem is that in the process of hazing the pledges or initiates are objectified and rendered less human, and that allows the perpetrators to feel justified in their actions towards them."

Adams hopes SIM will ultimately prosper when they return as an organization next year.

"I will meet with the student organization to answer any questions they have," he said. "Hopefully they will work through this and improve out of it. We hope SIM can improve and return as an organization united in their love of singing."

SIM is one of the newest a cappella groups on campus. Formed in 2002, the all-male group has prospered in recent years. The group celebrated their new CD release at a St. Patrick's Day party.

college shorts

by Brian Fung and Anthony Adragna

Fire tragedy claims three Wisconsin lives

Three University of Wisconsin students perished in a house fire April 5, despite a series of alarms heard by neighbors warning them of the blaze.

The victims, a man and two women, were found in three second-floor bedrooms and were pronounced dead at a local hospital. The deaths puzzled authorities as the smoke detectors were working.

"There was a bottle of alcohol and the top was off of it," Menomonie Police Chief Dennis Beety said. "But that's no indication they were drinking at the time."

"It's a tragedy that no campus prepares for," Chancellor Charles Sorensen said. "We'll grieve in this together."

Authorities arrived five minutes after the call came in for help. They found smoke billowing from the basement, first and second floors of the complex. Officials were on hand to help students deal with the tragedies.

In a letter sent out to members of the college community, Sorensen said, "Our hearts go out to family and friends of these students. The whole campus is grieving for the loss of these fine young people."

—MSNBC

Professor linked to church funds theft

Dartmouth College professor Richard Granger was linked to an embezzlement scandal this week as his wife, Lean Granger, was arrested by police in Hanover, N.H. Lean Granger allegedly stole over \$300,000 from a church in Southern California, where the couple last lived.

Police said Lean Granger, who was responsible for bookkeeping at the Newport Harbor Lutheran Church, wrote multiple checks to herself between October 2002 through November 2006.

In addition, Lean Granger is accused of writing checks to pay for credit card bills sent to a company registered under Richard Granger's name. Caspian Scientific, LLC, is currently not in good standing, according to *The Dartmouth*.

Lean Granger returned to California after her arrest, where she awaits trial in jail.

"We're gravely disappointed," church spokesman James Miller said to the *Associated Press*. "We trusted somebody and we don't really have the resources to have lost."

—Uwire.com

Stabbing victim found by fisherman in river

Police recovered the remains of Michael Meadows, a University of Montana student who was allegedly killed by his roommate, on April 6. Meadows was discovered by a fisherman in the Clark Fork River.

Missoula County Sheriff Mike McMeekin confirmed the find on April 7.

"We were notified and we made the recovery," said McMeekin.

Search teams had been working since the stabbing on Feb. 21 that preceded Meadows' disappearance. According to the Montana Kaimin, university student Cyril Kenneth Richard pleaded not guilty to charges of "deliberate homicide and evidence tampering last week in connection with the death of his roommate." Richard has sought to convince investigators he acted in self-defense.

According to police, Meadows was stabbed to death before being concealed in a blanket and thrown off a bridge about 30 miles away from the two students' apartment.

—Uwire.com

Admissions takes conservative approach

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the College's plan to increase diversity and to dissolve the perception among some that Middlebury's student body is overwhelmingly Caucasian. The result was a 13 percent increase in applicants who identify themselves as students of color. More than 1,000 students of color applied this year, while only 526 applied three years ago.

International applicants accounted for more than 18 percent of the pool, a 23 percent increase from 2007. Large numbers of international students have traditionally attended Middlebury, but Clagett accredited the recent increase to the travel of the admissions staff. He also noted that Middlebury is well-known internationally because of its connection with the United World Colleges, whose students come

from around the globe.

In addition to Middlebury's increasing popularity, the admissions staff was more conservative with the number of admitted students this year. The Class of 2011 had a very high yield of students who chose to attend Middlebury once admitted. Rather than risk over-enrolling, the College now has a waitlist that will most likely continue far into the summer. However, Clagett is "quite confident that we wouldn't have a higher yield than last year ... it was a [watershed moment]."

Both Harvard and Princeton dropped their early admissions programs two years ago, adding additional pressure to the applicant pool. Students who would have been accepted to one of those schools in past years are now applying to schools like Middlebury. As a result, the ap-

plicant pool was not only larger, but was also composed of more highly qualified students.

"I was pretty much not accepted to any of the Ivy League schools," said Yash Chopra, a senior at The Key School in Annapolis, Md., "and I was expecting to get into Georgetown [University]." Despite Chopra's rejection from Georgetown, he has been accepted to the College's Class of 2012.

Chopra applied to 10 schools. "The increasing number of applicants makes it easier to apply to more schools," he explained, "especially with the Common [Application], which Middlebury is on." He also noted that it seems like it was easier for students in past years to get into college, as friends with similar GPAs and SAT scores got into colleges from which he was deferred.

Critics question reappointments system

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

appeal processes worked as they are intended to, and, because of that, Laurie has been reappointed," Liebowitz said. "The new findings allowed the Reappointments Committee to place its original finding in a fuller context, which was, quite obviously, very helpful to the committee."

The Reappointments Committee in December recommended to Liebowitz that Essig's tenure-track contract not be renewed, despite an overwhelming degree of student and faculty support for her reappointment. The College's Appeals Committee then ruled in March that the Reappointments Committee made two procedural errors during its original review of Essig. First, committee members disregarded the most recent course response forms in the original review even though the evaluations had become available five days before the final decision was made to terminate Essig's contract.

Secondly, though many members of the faculty believed that Essig was employed by both the College's Women's and Gender Studies [WAGS] Department and Sociology and Anthropology Department, the contract for the initial appointment stipulated that she was employed only by the Sociology and Anthropology Department. As a result, the review only involved feedback from faculty members of the Sociology and Anthropology Department.

The second review allowed the Reappointments Committee to revisit its original decision, and it ultimately reversed itself.

Essig said that the inclusion of the Women's and Gender Studies faculty in the second review likely played a critical role in the new decision.

"Having the opportunity to meet with [Chair of Women's and Gender Studies] Sujata Moorti and to hear what role I play in that program was important," she said, "and she had a lot of letters from [WAGS affiliated] professors who came to my classes."

Still, Essig disputed the notion that the end result represented a sign that the system worked.

"I think that the system is out of whack when the opinion of three non-experts can override both the student evaluations and the unanimous senior colleague evaluations," she said. "I do not know what the solutions are but I think it's time to ask questions about what other schools are doing."

Many had previously criticized the system

of appeals for sending an upheld case back to the committee which conducted the original review. The process has also come under fire for what some perceive as a tendency towards departmental bias and a bias against a more progressive curriculum, something Essig said affects the role of academic freedom in the College's tenure system. Liebowitz said that in all his discussions with the committee, Essig's progressive scholarly focus never came up as a basis for judging her teaching.

The College Handbook's rules on academic freedom are adapted from both the 1940 "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure" of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), as well as the AAUP's 1969 Interpretive Comments on the issue, which clarified several components of the original statement.

The College does not adhere to the AAUP's 1989 "Statement on Procedural Standards in the Renewal or Non-Renewal of Faculty Appointments," a statement which Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science Murray Dry said could be interpreted to require faculty-elected reappointment committees to follow the recommendations of academic departments on reappointments, in the name of departmental autonomy. Though this would have certainly

procedures for reappointment and tenure every so often," he said. "We have not done that, top to bottom, for 15 years, and so I would like us to do a major review of our procedures and either reaffirm our confidence in them, or propose changes."

Ryan Tauriainen '08, co-president of the Middlebury Open Queer Alliance, applauded the committee's decision but said that professors' service should be taken just as seriously as their scholarship and teaching in the review. Associate Professor of English and American Literatures Yumna Siddiqi, unconvinced that the recent decision regarding Essig shows the processes of reappointments and appeals is satisfactory, also proposed several changes to the system.

"I think that the committee should in the first place consist of five people," she said, "that more weight should be given to the department's recommendation when it is properly backed up and that a different committee should look at a case when an appeal is granted — perhaps that could be the work of the appeals committee."

Moorti agreed, adding that an overhaul of the system is easier said than done.

"We will need to figure out a fair way for an interdisciplinary committee to assess various disciplines and diverse pedagogical strategies," she said. "We will also need to figure out a way where we can balance the needs of confidentiality with those of transparency and accountability."

Changes to the system, according to Essig, would go a long way in alleviating a culture among junior faculty of feeling vulnerable because one might have spoken up at a faculty meeting or voiced one's political views on campus. Dry did not deny that this occurs, but doubted that it was widespread. Still, Essig claimed that the presence of such a culture hampers the intellectual vibrancy of the community and prevents it from creating a dialogue of dissent.

"I think that we can learn lessons from other institutions about how to create an atmosphere in which students and faculty feel free to experiment in the classroom and still be held accountable in their field but not have to feel that creating intellectual vibrancy is a problem," she said. "Giving your opinion on ethical and political issues should be an obligation for students, faculty and administrators alike as members of the community. It shouldn't have to come down to hundreds of people rescuing somebody. The system worked because hundreds of people stood up and said something is wrong here. I am incredibly lucky, but what if I were not as

I am incredibly lucky, but what if I were not as connected?

—Laurie Essig

given more weight to the recommendations of the Sociology and Anthropology and Women's and Gender Studies Departments during the original review, Dry noted that two people at the AAUP denied that the language of the statement compelled such a conclusion.

"Speaking for myself, I think it would be a mistake to defer unconditionally to departmental recommendations in matters of reappointment. These are the toughest decisions for a college to make and they affect the long-term character of the institution too much to leave them entirely in the hands of the several departments," he said. "I think there is a place for a college-wide faculty-elected committee to take all relevant information into account and make a recommendation to the president."

While Liebowitz defended the system and its guiding principles, he did not rule out future reforms to the process.

"I believe it is a good thing for the institution and for the faculty to review its rules and

public safety log

April 1 - April 6, 2008

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
4/1/2008	1:30 a.m.	Theft	Cell Phone	82 Adirondack	Referred to Commons Dean
Over Break	Unknown	Theft	Laptop	Stewart	Open
4/5/2008	9:30 a.m.	Theft	Bicycle	Ross Dining Hall	Referred to Commons Dean
4/5/2008	2:30 a.m.	Vandalism	Window	Bicentennial Hall	Referred to Commons Dean
4/6/2008	2:49 a.m.	Vandalism	Phone	Fletcher	Referred to Commons Dean
4/6/2008	2:57 a.m.	Drugs	Pipes	Battell	Referred to Commons Dean
4/6/2008	3:10 a.m.	Vandalism	Window	Gifford	Referred to Commons Dean
4/6/2008	3:10 a.m.	Vandalism	Mailbox	College Street	Referred to Commons Dean

The Department of Public Safety reported giving nine alcohol citations between April 1 to April 6.

Comprehensive fee approaches \$50,000 threshold

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by as much as 6.5 percent — some parents are getting restless.

"We sort of had this feeling of, 'Oh no, not again,'" said Kathi Knise, a Middlebury parent who last week received a letter sent to all families announcing the College's comprehensive fee for the 2008-2009 academic year. Middlebury administrators set the new price tag on March 27 at \$49,210 — the second-priciest fee among the College's peer institutions, behind Wesleyan University, whose fee for undergraduates trumps Middlebury's by \$60. Juniors and seniors at Wesleyan will be expected to shell out nearly \$51,000 in the upcoming fall and spring for their education.

Knise's attitude mirrors that of a growing number of parents at a time when inflation rates are up, the economy's general health is down and salaries are flat-lining. Finding the resources to pay for tuition, room and board is becoming increasingly difficult — yet at the same time, said Knise, parents everywhere are under pressure to dig deeper into their pockets.

"When you look at your kid," she said, "and they get into a great school, a wonderful school, you keep sacrificing in other areas so that you can afford to send him to a school that you think is ultimately a great investment. You keep cutting on the other side of the equation."

In an effort to stem that sort of exhaustive cutting, private loan providers, federal

lawmakers and now institutions themselves are becoming involved in holding back the rising tide of college fees. Middlebury's latest comprehensive fee increase of 4.9 percent reflected a conscious decision to assist struggling families, said President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz in a phone interview. Though the Board of Trustees recommended a fee hike of between five and 5.25 percent, Liebowitz took dramatic steps to limit the rate of increase, surpassing the expectations of even the Student Government Association (SGA) Comprehensive Fee Committee, which had proposed a 4.95 percent jump.

But even as colleges take unilateral steps to assist middle- and lower-income families, and Congress passes bipartisan legislation putting pressure on private student lenders, Middlebury students and parents nonetheless are bracing themselves for the inevitable letter from Old Chapel announcing that the comprehensive fee has risen to exceed \$50,000.

"I don't have much of a sense of what \$50,000 even really means," said Heather Pangle '10, explaining the difficulty in overcoming what many see as a real psychological hurdle. Passing the milestone will confirm the College's status as an elite institution — boasting a sticker price to match the tag — but that thought has already raised questions about whether the administration is doing enough to keep costs under control.

Middlebury's need-blind admissions policy and commitment to meet students'

full demonstrated financial need currently represent the most responsible approach to College finances, administrators and key student leaders say. Aside from a campus-wide e-mail on April 7 announcing a further reduction in the student loan component of financial aid packages beginning in the fall of 2008, no dramatic changes to financial aid policy can be expected for the foreseeable future. While the administration has discussed the elimination of student loans entirely from its aid packages in the wake of similar decisions by peer institutions like Amherst and Williams Colleges, Middlebury currently has no plans to follow suit.

Indeed, after a one-year respite, Middlebury families could see the rate of comprehensive fee increases return to their old levels. The size of the annual increases is largely dictated by variable factors that include energy and food prices, as well as traditionally high inflation rates among products like books and technology. Given those economic variables, the College will likely run into trouble trying to sustain low annual fee hikes, said SGA Comprehensive Fee Committee Chair AnnMarie Wesolowski '08.

Executive Vice President and Treasurer of the College Bob Huth offered a more reserved analysis.

"If you can look into your crystal ball and tell me how well the endowment fund's going to do in the future and how much our donors are willing to provide to us," said Huth in a phone interview, "I can give you a

fairly accurate answer."

But answers seem to be in short supply at the College, as an overwhelming number of students — nearly 90 percent of respondents to a January SGA survey — expressed interest in learning more about how the comprehensive fee is used. Middlebury parent Ed Lefrak made similar requests in an e-mail to *The Campus*, criticizing as "patronizing" Old Chapel's argument that parents should view mounting costs as an "extraordinary investment."

"To appear to empirically increase the tuition without explaining the change in detail seems inappropriate and unfair," wrote Lefrak. "Any increase above the established cost of living change deserves a thorough consideration and explanation."

Though detailed financial information is available on the College Web site, what community members are now asking for is an active administrative effort to reach out and explain its budgeting practices directly and openly. Whether that will happen remains unclear. For the moment, the College appears poised to maintain the status quo.

SGA President Max Nardini '08 admitted that economics are hardly his forte, and in an interview, apologized for offering what he considered a relatively simple assessment of the situation.

Maybe, though, simplicity is exactly what this equation needs.

"As Middlebury increases services," explained Nardini, "the price is bound to go up."

Be prepared

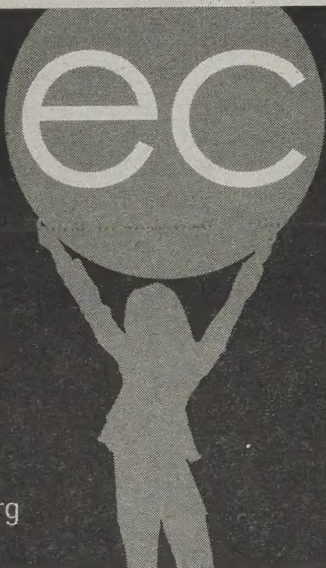
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The Middlebury Campus
will hold elections for the positions of

**Editor in Chief
and Managing Editor**

on Sunday, April 20, 2008.

If you are interested in running for either position,
please contact campus@middlebury.edu.

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SECESSION

not just a thing of the past

by Kelly Janis, Local News Editor

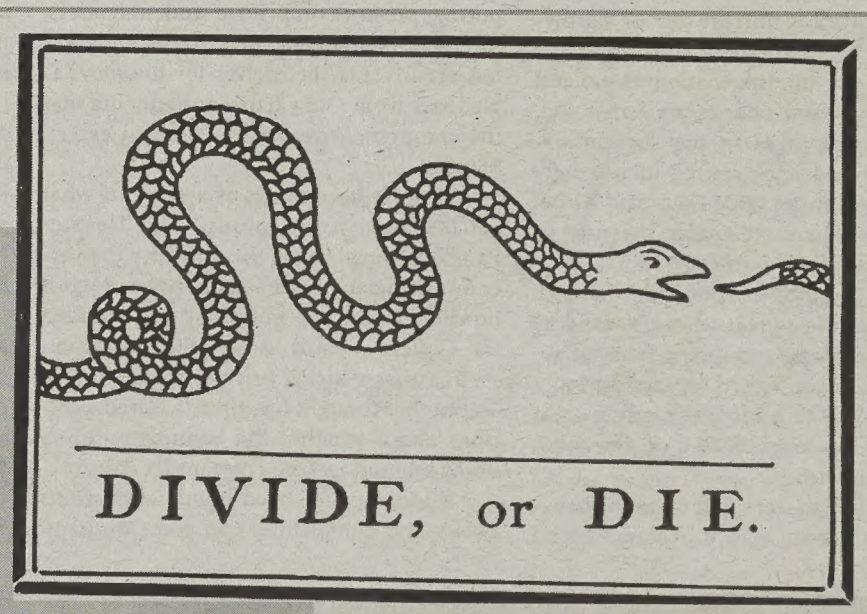
Thoughtful Vermonters, opposed to the tyranny of the United States government, corporate America and globalization, believe that Vermont should once again become an independent republic, as it was between 1777 and 1791, and that the United States of America should begin to peacefully dissolve," reads an excerpt from "The Green Mountain Manifesto: Why and How Tiny Vermont Might Help Save America From Itself by Seceding from the Union." The document was drafted by retired Duke University economics professor and author Thomas Naylor to encapsulate the ideals of a growing movement which advocates Vermont's peaceable secession from the Union.

Though such ideology may at first register as outlandish, the prospect is not without a sizable contingent of supporters. In the 2006 Vermonter Poll conducted by the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont, eight percent of registered voters expressed a favorable opinion of the proposal. Nor is such a movement without local precedents. In 2004, residents of the ski resort community of Killington, Vt. voted at their town meeting to secede from the state of Vermont and seek admission to New Hampshire. (The bill which would have paved the way for the town's exit died in the state legislature at the conclusion of the 2005-2006 season.)

Among the proposition's most vocal proponents are author Kirkpatrick Sale — founder of the Middlebury Institute, a Cold Spring, N.Y.-based think tank dedicated to separatism, secession and self-determination and a self-described "anarchocommunalist" — and teacher, historian, writer and musician Dr. Rob Williams, editor of *Vermont Commons*, a quarterly newspaper which promotes non-violent secession and what the publication's mission statement describes as "a more sustainable Vermont future into which we can invest our time, energy and financial and spiritual resources."

In interviews with *The Campus*, Sale and Williams discussed the nuts and bolts of secession, firmly asserting that the state's viability hinges on its ability to depart from what both deem "the U.S. Empire" in the interest of constructing an independent order.

Continued on page 8...



Down with the
empire!



Welch, Moose &
Vets, Oh My!
Politician rallies for permit bill,
page 7



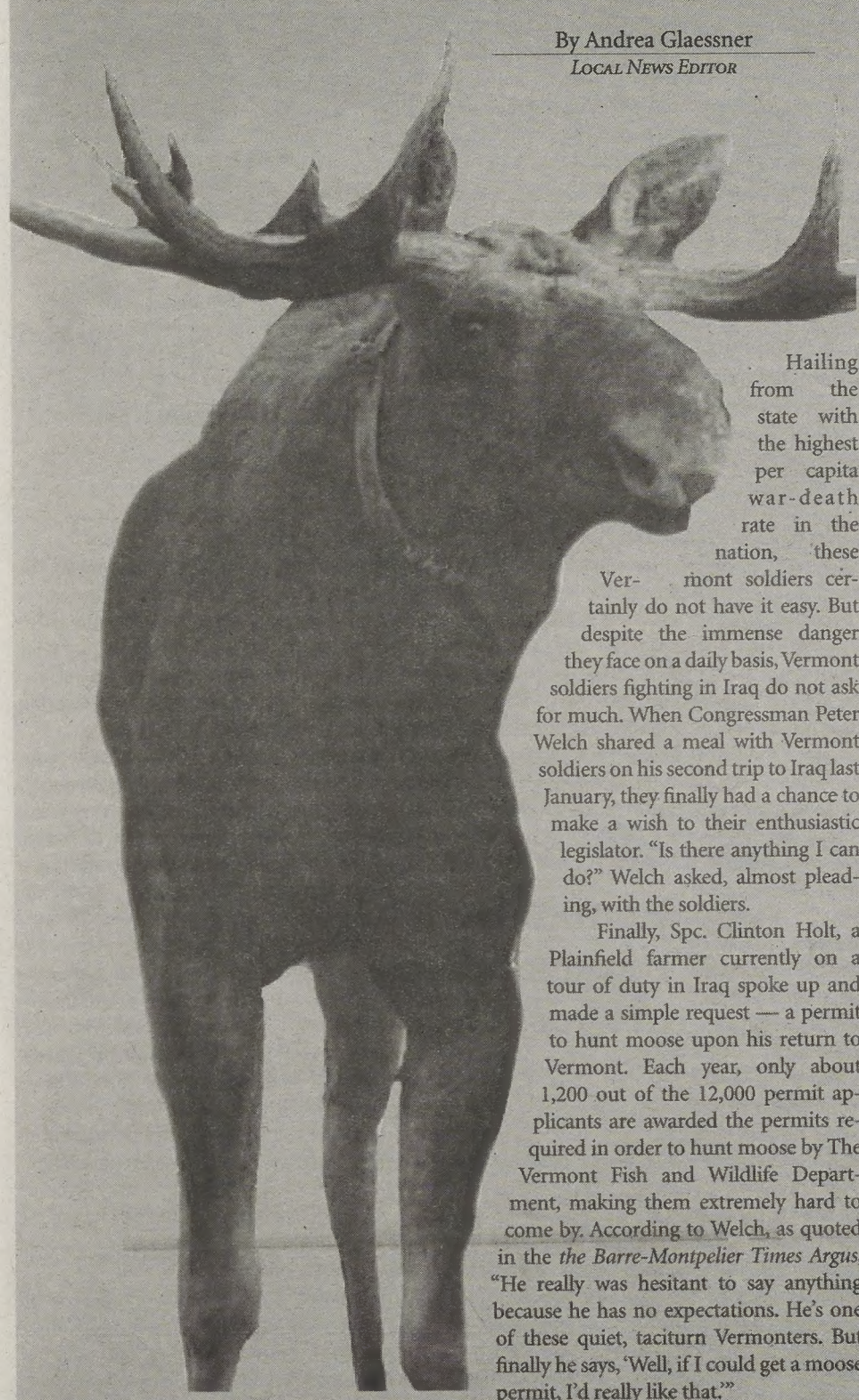
The Local Lowdown
Live music, birdwatching and assorted Ver-
mont adventures,
page 8

Fire at the Marquis
Smoking roof disrupts a quiet
Tuesday afternoon, page 7



Welch rallies for vets, new moose permit bill

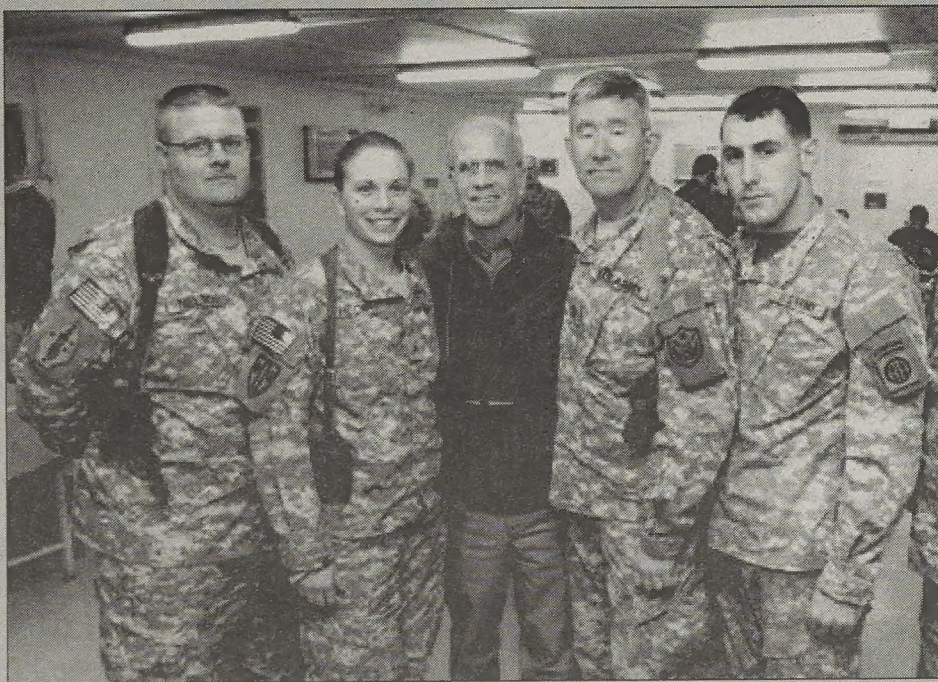
By Andrea Glaessner
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR



Hailing from the state with the highest per capita war-death rate in the nation, these

Vermont soldiers certainly do not have it easy. But despite the immense danger they face on a daily basis, Vermont soldiers fighting in Iraq do not ask for much. When Congressman Peter Welch shared a meal with Vermont soldiers on his second trip to Iraq last January, they finally had a chance to make a wish to their enthusiastic legislator. "Is there anything I can do?" Welch asked, almost pleading, with the soldiers.

Finally, Spc. Clinton Holt, a Plainfield farmer currently on a tour of duty in Iraq spoke up and made a simple request — a permit to hunt moose upon his return to Vermont. Each year, only about 1,200 out of the 12,000 permit applicants are awarded the permits required in order to hunt moose by The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, making them extremely hard to come by. According to Welch, as quoted in the *Barre-Montpelier Times Argus*, "He really was hesitant to say anything because he has no expectations. He's one of these quiet, taciturn Vermonters. But finally he says, 'Well, if I could get a moose permit, I'd really like that.'"



Courtesy

Congressman Welch poses with Vermont veterans of the Iraq War after a January meeting.

After returning home to meet with representatives in the State legislature and sharing Holt's story with Rep. Margaret Cheney, a Norwich Democrat, the wheels were set in motion. Moved by the simple request of a hardworking soldier, Cheney began crafting legislation that would set aside five of Vermont's 1,000-plus moose permits for veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. And thus H.788 was born.

To be precise, the bill does not actually put the moose bill in the hands of the veterans, but, according to Welch's press manager Andrew Savage, "It gives the vets a better shot at getting a moose permit, [though] there is still a lottery."

Welch's agenda in Iraq did not originally include a stint as the Santa of hunting permits. According to Savage, the purpose of the Congressman's trip was primarily to assess the

political and military situation and to gain a better understanding of the Iraq refugee dilemma facing U.S. defense forces in Iraq.

Welch's move to engage the state legislature in granting Holt's wish was certainly "a rare thing," said Savage. Lately, Welch has been focusing his efforts on college affordability, closing an overseas contracting loophole and ending

Well, if I could get a moose permit, I'd really like that.

—Clinton Holt

tax breaks for big oil companies.

But Welch still found time to join the members of the Vermont General Assembly, Governor Jim Douglas and Waneta Mayhew, Holt's mother, for a bill-signing ceremony in Plainfield on April 4. "I commend the Vermont legislature and Governor for their bipartisan work to see this idea through from a cafeteria in Iraq to a convenience store in Plainfield," said Welch in a press release on the bill-signing ceremony.

Smoke, flames cause alarm at the Marquis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our roof and that we should get out," said Deb Haverlick, an employee at Ben Franklin who was working at the time of the fire. "Really, if it hadn't been for her, we wouldn't have known what was going on until much later."

According to Rick Cole, chief of the Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department, they received the call from Forth and Goal shortly after noon on Tuesday. After responding to the call with two fire trucks, an ambulance and a traffic blockade on Main St. by the Middlebury Police Department, Cole and his

men went to work.

"There was smoke coming out of the roof," said Cole, "but the fire was all outside of the building. We evacuated the Ben Franklin, made a couple of guts in the roof and put out what fire was there."

According to Cole, no one was injured and very little damage was sustained by the theater, apart from the minor charring and gutting of the northern corner of the roof.

The cause of the fire is still under speculation, though there are indications that it might have been electrical.

"CVPS was over here checking things out," said Haverlick shortly after people from

Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) had left the premises.

"I'm assuming it was electrical," said Michelle, "and I'm not anyone, but it looked like it the way it was burning."

Mary Manley, like Michelle, was also working nearby, at the Henry Sheldon Museum at the time of the fire. Manley said she was first notified of the commotion occurring directly across the street by WCAX Channel 3 News. The station called to ask if she would take a photo of the action with her cellular phone and send it to them.

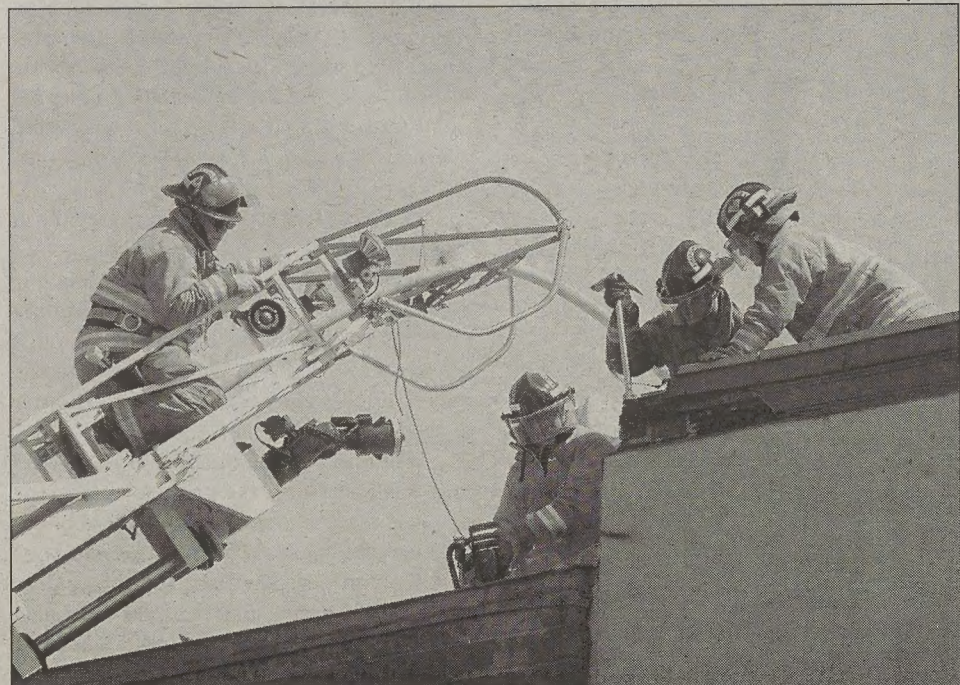
"It was around 12:20 or 12:25 p.m. when they called and I looked out the window,"

said Manley. "At that point, the firemen were hatcheting the roof open and I saw smoke and flames coming out. It all seemed to go away fairly quickly, though."

According to onlookers, the fire department was efficient in stabilizing the situation at the theater.

"The firemen did a fantastic job," said Alice Babbie, assistant manager of Ben Franklin. "The whole process only took an hour and a half, or an hour and 45 minutes tops."

"They had two trucks and a ladder over there," said Manley, "and they had several men up on the roof taking care of it. It seemed pretty orderly."



Angela Evancie



Angela Evancie

The Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department led by Chief Rick Cole responded to the call reporting the fire on Tuesday afternoon. In a little less than two hours, the flames had been put out.

local lowdown

your source for upcoming
events in the community

Sample the 'Low Carbon Diet' at Ilsley

On Thursday, Apr. 10, Ilsley Library will be holding its "Low Carbon Diet" program. The program, which was created to help inspire community members to "reduce their carbon footprint while saving energy costs" will be held at 5 p.m. Those who attend will receive tips on how to be energy-efficient and how to calculate how big their carbon footprint is, as well as information on how to register for the program. For more information, be sure to attend, or call 802-388-9478.

Birdwatching Workshop

Spring has begun and the birds are beginning to be "twitterpated," as Bambi — everyone's favorite deer — would put it. If you find their chirping outside your window at six o'clock every morning endearing rather than annoying, you might consider attending the Spring Birding Workshop in East Middlebury on Thursday, Apr. 10. The workshop will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Sarah Partridge Community House and Library. Bird enthusiasts Louis and Beverly Megyesi, Dayton and Sarah Wakefield and Larry and Mona Rogers will serve as panelists and dole out tips to beginning bird watchers.



Legislative Breakfast in Middlebury

If 8 a.m. classes are not early enough for you, harness your earlybird ways and head on over to the American Legion for the Legislative Breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, April 14 to meet with you local representatives. The breakfast goes until 8:45 a.m. and is sponsored by the Bridport Grange and Addison County Farm Bureau.

The Can Do Dancers come to Midd

On Tuesday, April 15 at 11 a.m. the Can Do Dancers will be performing at Mary Hogan Elementary School. Who and what the Can Do Dancers are, and whether or not the elementary school would welcome random college students — we don't know. But we are excited anyway.

Midd is Alive With the Sound of Music

If you are itching to hear some live music and cannot make it until Cake comes to campus, try wandering into some local haunts to hear some not-so-rehearsed beats.

Thursday, April 10
Honeywell at Two Brothers, 10 p.m.

Friday, April 11
Snake Mountain Bluegrass at Two Brothers, 5-7 p.m.
The Proctor Connection at Two Brothers, 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 12
Chris Kleeman at Carol's, 7:30 p.m.

Activists urge Vermont secession

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The Middlebury Campus: Do you believe the United States is a collapsing empire? If so, why?

Kirkpatrick Sale: Yes. Isn't it obvious? It has botched every area it's involved in, and is unable to solve, much less even address, most of the multiple crises that assault the earth today. I shouldn't have to enumerate them, but off the top of my head I'll give you: extinction of species, climate change, pollution of air, water and soils, exhaustion of fisheries, desertification, disruption of the atmosphere, the emiseration of the great part of the world, the malignancy of capitalism and the stultification and dumbing-down of industrial society.

TC: In "Our Mission: Imagining an Independent Vermont" in the Spring 2008 issue of *Vermont Commons*, you wrote that "the United States is no longer a republic governed by its citizens, but an empire that is essentially ungovernable." Can you elaborate on and provide evidence for this statement?

Rob Williams: Sure. The U.S. possesses close to 10,000 nuclear weapons, maintains a military presence in more than 130 out of 193 countries globally, spends more money on our military budget than the next eight nations combined and is quite vocal about pursuing a policy of "full spectrum dominance" to control the entire world and outer space. At home, the size of the average Congressional district is roughly 620,000 citizens (the population of Vermont), while multinational corporations own — through extensive lobbying efforts over the past several decades — both major political parties at the national level. No one in her right mind could argue for a moment that maintaining a democracy or a republic is possible under these sorts of circumstances.

TC: In what manner is the 21st century shaping up to be different from the 20th?

Williams: Far-sighted thinkers suggest that we face a number of unique 21st century challenges that are unfolding before our eyes: a "perfect storm" involving global peak oil realities (the end of the era of the most magical discovery human civilization has ever made — cheap and abundant fossil fuel energy), climate change dilemmas and the collapse of "Petroleum Man" civilization. The U.S. Empire's response has so far been to deal with these emerging realities by invading other

countries, making money by bombing and rebuilding and privatizing their assets (oil reserves and other forms of wealth — Iraq is now the perfect example of this process), all in the name of "democracy," "freedom" and a "war on terror" which, we are told, "will not end in our lifetimes." We suggest that this is a short-sighted and unethical approach — to put it mildly — to the 21st century problems that are emerging.

TC: What are the most significant changes Vermont would incur in the event of successful secession?

Sale: An independent Vermont would operate at a scale where real democracy would be possible, where it would be able to shield itself from the errors, incompetence and corruption of the federal government, where it could guide its own economy toward egalitarian ends and where its citizens would have essential control over the decisions that effect their lives.

Williams: We'd have to restructure our economy and our political system to engage the rest of the world on our own terms, instead of as one of 50 states within the U.S. Empire. The list of questions is long — and we've been writing about solutions and answers in the newspaper for three years now.

TC: How would Vermont's new government be arranged?

Williams: This is a decision for the citizens of Vermont to make, but I imagine Vermont's new government will retain many of the elements that have made Vermont so successful to date: elected representatives from each town or region convening in a statewide assembly, with local elected officials doing the good work of town and school governance. We also have a perfectly good state constitution which would make a nice foundation for an independent republic.

TC: Do you believe national and world opinion would be on Vermont's side in the event of secession?

Sale: Without question. It is the overwhelming wave of world politics, and has been for half a century, so there are a great many secessionist states in the world. Moreover, if

the citizens voted fairly and heavily for it, that would make it indisputably moral in the eyes of the world.

Williams: Absolutely. I think that most of the world's nations and peoples recognize that the U.S. Empire is a hyper-power that has betrayed its own ideals. The U.S. has become similar to the Empire our Founding Fathers and Mothers seceded from back in 1776.

TC: Do you see any disadvantages to secession?

Sale: Not if it is peaceful and majoritarian. None at all.

Williams: Certainly, there are risks involved. We advocate non-violence, and propose that we gradually "absent" ourselves from the U.S. Empire. But there is no telling how the U.S. government will respond to Vermonters' desire to leave the U.S.



The old and young alike unite for the cause. Courtesy

TC: Do you believe secession is a feasible goal? Do you see it coming to fruition? If so, within what time frame?

Sale: It is certainly feasible, and as the empire collapses and things become a lot worse, it will stand out across the land as the only reasonable way to go. In the face of peak oil, for example, and climate disasters and rising oceans, it will be seen as not only feasible, but necessary for survival.

Williams: Indeed, it is a feasible goal, just like the British colonies' desire to secede from the British Empire and form new and independent governments ultimately proved a feasible goal. Gauging the time frame is

tricky. It really depends on how quickly Vermonters wake up to the fact that remaining in the U.S. Empire is a high-risk proposition.

Remaining in the U.S. Empire is a high-risk proposition.

— Rob Williams

TC: If secession does not pan out, what other means exist to remedy the problems you perceive to face Vermont?

Sale: They can't be solved as long as the weight and errancy of the federal government falls so heavily on the state.

Williams: We focus much of our *Vermont Commons* work on what we call "re-localization" efforts — how do we decentralize our political, economic and social lives to maximum effect? See, for example, our <http://www.keepitinvermont.org> campaign — an effort to urge Vermonters to re-invest their federal "rebate" checks of \$600 to \$1,200 back into the local Vermont economy over the next four months.

TC: How do most people you encounter respond to the secession campaign? Do they take it seriously?

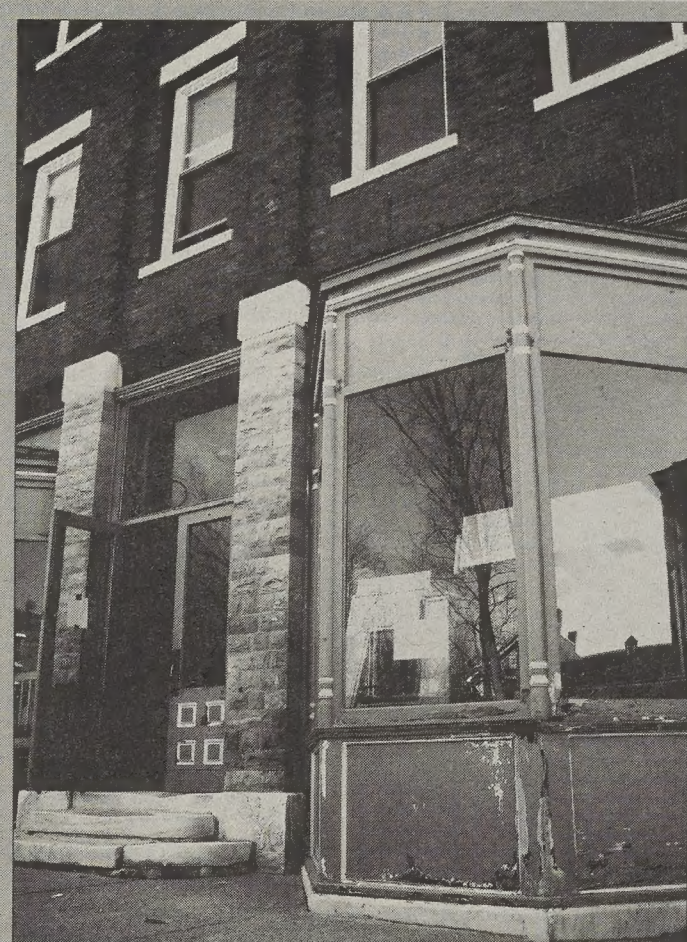
Sale: Most people I talk to seem to feel it is a very good idea, but not attainable, until I tell them about the disasters we are in now and how they're only getting worse, and [that] the national government is the problem, not the solution. Then they begin to see the point. They don't all agree to become part of the movement, but you'd be surprised how many ask to be on the institute's mailing list, which has grown to several thousand in just two years.

Williams: We get all sorts of responses, from anger to laughter to genuine interest. I think more and more thoughtful citizens are realizing that the days of the U.S. Empire are numbered, and that it is up to us to develop alternatives to empire here in Vermont.

TC: What is at stake for you personally in this movement?

Sale: Nothing. In fact, it's costing me a good deal of money. I don't even live in a state that has or is likely to have a secessionist movement. I do this because I think it is the only thing that can possibly avert the disaster of the American Empire.

Williams: I have poured countless hours into this effort over the past four years. For me, it is really about creating a more hopeful 21st century world for ourselves and our children and their children. The future does not look very promising, but I am ultimately hopeful that we might "re-invent" ourselves here in Vermont as a more sustainable 21st century republic. Time will tell.

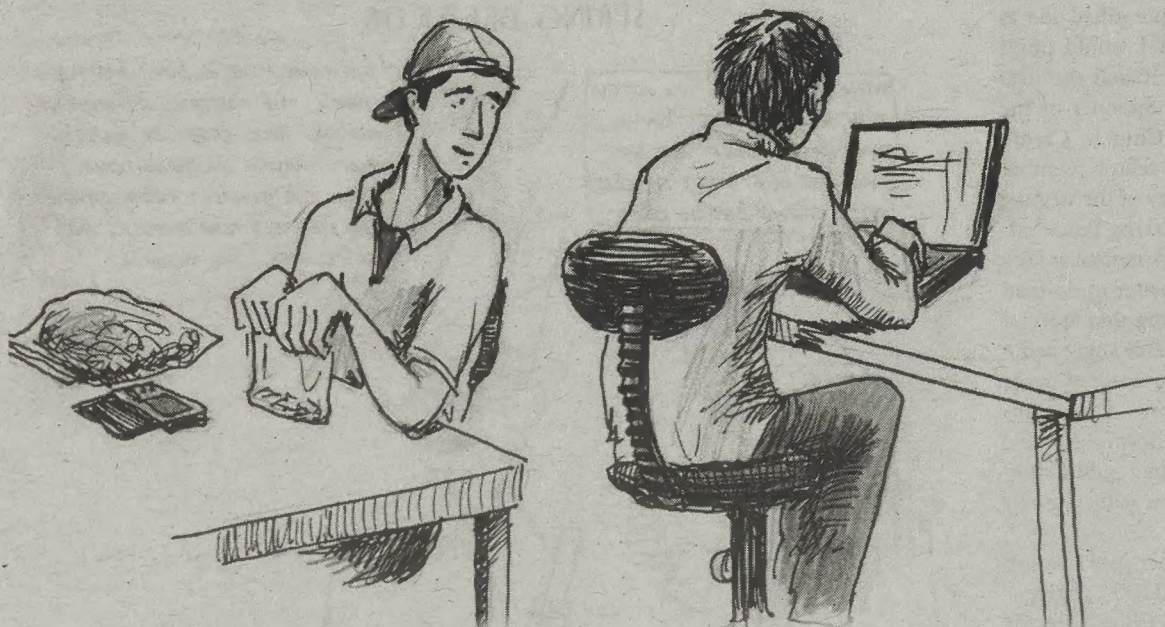


Tamara Hilmes

Adios, Amigos

On May 1, Gloria's, a new restaurant offering Italian cuisine will open in the space on Merchant's Row that was formerly home to Amigo's Mexican restaurant.

SO WHO REALLY WROTE THE "ECONOMICS OF SIN" SURVEY?



"Good news! It looks like we can increase prices by ten dollars and 80% of students will still buy from us..."

Columnist illustrations by Christina Spencer

Cartoon by Sam Dakota Miller

Letters to the editor

To the Editor:

I found out this week that I have been reappointed to the Middlebury faculty. We won! Don't you just love it when the good guys win? It makes you feel like we really can change our lives and the lives of those around us and make this community and, yes, the world a better place. And who were the good guys? Each and every one of you who took the time to care about Middlebury and change something, that, just didn't seem right. Each and every one of you who wrote letters, signed petitions, joined the Facebook campaign on my behalf and talked to everyone and anyone that would listen about my case. Each and every one of you who sent me e-mails, called me, stopped by to express your support, cooked me a meal, told me a joke, lent me a cheesy novel to read. You gave me the strength and perspective to keep working on staying at Middlebury, a place that matters to me, a place in which I belong because you said so.

How will I ever express my gratitude to the hundreds of people in this community who stood up and said that I matter, that the sort of teaching I do here matters, and that Middlebury matters enough to work on creating a thriving intellectual community of diverse teaching styles and teachers and students? You are the good guys, the ones who can make the world a better place, just

by insisting that you are heard and that people listen. And people did listen, and they're good guys too — the Appeals Committee for working so hard to figure out how the process might work better with more information, President Liebowitz for his willingness to talk to me and you throughout this process and the Reappointments Committee for actually being willing to reconsider the situation with new information and for reversing themselves.

We are all good guys and I wish we could ride off into the sunset. But now we have to roll up our sleeves and ask a lot of difficult questions about the review and promotion process and whether it's good enough for us, the good guys, or whether we deserve something more codified, more transparent and ultimately, more just. Here's to making Middlebury the best place it can be. You all deserve that because you are my heroes. Thank you again and again and again.

Sincerely,
Laurie Essig

Assistant Professor
Sociology/Anthropology and
Women and Gender Studies

To the Editor:

From \$40,400 in 2004-05 to \$49,210 is stunning. And demoralizing to those families not at the top, or highly buffered via subsidization by the College at the bottom.

Where else in the economy (except for the oil cartel) has there been a 20 percent increase over four years? Certainly not in wages or cost of living indices. Physicians like me, for example, have been handed actual decreases in Medicare reimbursements. The country is headed into a recession. These fee increases impact students' access to graduate school and parents' ability to retire decently. The annual increases exceed what most students can earn in a summer.

I am appalled that the College marches to this tune. Gorgeous new copper-clad buildings, millions to the town for a rebuilt bridge, tens of thousands for a rejected modern logo, junkets for the 100 elite recruits, and — last year's justification — the fig-leaf of so-called carbon neutrality. How many millions for sports? I can only guess.

The College seems to have embraced a manifest destiny of opulence. Why not hew to its Yankee iconoclast roots? Reject gratifying the narcissism of wealthy donors with the allure of a showcase and instead focus on the core mission: education. Rather than dismissing the vaunted rankings in words, lead by doing so in deeds by providing fine, affordable education.

Sincerely,
David Rosmarin
Harvard, Mass.

(Letters continued on page 10)

campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Monday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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The staff editorial represents the official opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* as decided by the Editorial Board.

Hazing decision represents necessary caution

Students are doubtless grumbling (to say the least) about the College's decision to temporarily disband a cappella group stuck in the Middle (SIM) for hazing violations. However, the decision — though disappointing for members of the group — ultimately signals the understandable decision of the administration to err on the side of caution.

In this particular case, the hazing that occurred was, administrators admitted, relatively innocuous. Students' health and wellbeing was never in question, and SIM's stumble seems ultimately to have been a result of their decision to delineate a difference between current members and uninitiated members of the group during a group social activity. This, in essence, is at the heart of the debate about hazing. Hazing carries a heavy connotation of coercion, violence, and mean-spiritedness, but the violation by the College's includes even good-natured events in which students are willing participants.

Though the College must — and largely does — respect the right of consenting students to participate in activities of their own choosing, the language about hazing in the Handbook was drafted to protect students. While the College's black and white interpretation of hazing can be frustrating, particularly in cases such as the SIM violation, College administrators had little option but to respond in the way in which they did to the hazing allegations.

Just as administrators must err on the side of caution, so too must individuals and student organizations exercise common sense when planning group activities. SIM's punishment seems especially unfortunate given the widespread student opinion that similar activities are not only prevalent but also acceptable among other organizations. This may, in fact, be true, but given the College's guidelines — and their intent to protect and not persecute students — group leaders must move towards social institutions among their organizations that strive for inclusiveness among members.

The very premise behind an initiation cannot be the standard for establishing group unity, because even in the most benign cases the power dynamic suggested by what the College terms hazing can be dangerous. While we regret that any one organization must bear the brunt of the punishment for this lesson, the SIM hazing violation stands as a reminder of not only the College's policy but also the responsibility of student organizations to function within the context of this policy.

Tenure deserves a second glance

The recent decision to reappoint Assistant Professor of Sociology Laurie Essig to her tenure-track position represents a triumph of the tenure review system. After a surprising decision in December left Essig and her many fans baffled by her early dismissal, Essig's appeal and reevaluation were executed promptly and thoroughly.

However, while the Essig decision is a welcome one for the professor and her vocal supporters, the ruling does little to assuage more general concerns about the tenure review process. The reinstatement of one professor does not address the widespread culture of anxiety, punitive evaluation and stifled academic and personal creativity that tenure engenders. The College's process for reviewing faculty members is idiosyncratic and incredibly dated. Laurie Essig's career, and the academic lives of her students, benefited greatly from a second glance by the Reappointments Committee. The process and practice of tenure itself would gain even more from such renewed attentions. In Essig's case, the system's checks functioned as they were designed to function, but our confidence in the system at large is badly shaken.

contact the campus

To contact *The Middlebury Campus* Publications with story tips or content suggestions, e-mail:

campus@middlebury.edu

or find us on the web at:

www.middleburycampus.com

Letters continued

To the Editor:

When I sent my son off to college one and a half years ago my parting words were "Work hard but don't forget to have fun." I am so proud and thrilled to say that he has certainly heeded my advice. As I write this letter, my son Justin Bogart and 16 of his fellow Middlebury Quidditch enthusiasts are having the trip of a lifetime. For spring break, they (and all of their equipment) piled into three vans. The back of each van held two signs, one stating, "Honk if you love Harry Potter," and the other stating, "Honk if you don't love Harry Potter." As you might imagine this created quite a stir from the other cars on the road. On Friday, March 21, I opened up *The New York Post* and saw that one of the items on the "infamous" Page Six was the Middlebury Quidditch team's visit to Columbia University which was planned for the following Tuesday. Sitting in the stands and watching that game, I was one of many who showed up to enjoy the show. And what a show it was. At one point they even coached a whole group of children 10 years and under! But the excitement didn't end there. This morning, turning on my television set, it was quite a thrill once again to see the Middlebury Quidditch team, this time on "CBS Morning News" playing students from Princeton and Amherst. As a parent bringing up young adults in this volatile world, what a great thing it is to see these students acting as ambassadors of fun and good will.

Sincerely,
Robin Bogart
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To the Editor:

Your article on the "Singing for Peace" event held on Sunday, March 16 suggested that the event was sponsored entirely by the Champlain Valley Unitarian-Universalist Society ("Church 'Sings Out' for peaceful tomorrow," March 20). It further indicated that the peace vigils held every Saturday morning in Middlebury were also a project of CVUUS. In fact, both the March 16 songfest and the weekly vigils are broadly based, ecumenical and have arisen largely out of the efforts of the Addison County Peace Coalition. The wonderful crowd present on March 16 included many members of CVUUS, but also a large number of Quakers, Methodists, members of United Church of Christ congregations and doubtless folks from other faith communities, and others from no faith community. The leaders of the songfest included Heidi Willis, a United Church of Christ member from Weybridge, and Ann Rowell, a Methodist from Middlebury. It is great to have coverage of community events in *The Campus*, but a bit more accuracy in your reporting would be appreciated!

Sincerely,
Reverend David Andrews
Middlebury, Vt.

To the Editor:

I am writing to ask you to clarify for your readers a couple of misrepresentations in the March 20 article "Church 'Sings Out' for peaceful tomorrow."

Let me say first that the Addison County Peace Coalition is pleased to have received the notice Nicole Lam's article gave to its presence in the Middlebury community. Its weekly Saturday morning vigil is made up of people from a number of area churches as well as people with no particular church affiliation. College students would be very welcome.

Among the people who organized the Sing Out for Peace on behalf of the Peace Coalition, and certainly among those who attended, were local citizens of several faith communities, various religious persuasions and the unchurched. The event was held at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society (CVUUS) meeting house. Beyond the use of its space, CVUUS had no greater involvement than other churches in the community.

It is accurate to have identified me as "one of the organizers" but I would point out that the person who initiated the idea for the Sing Out was Carol Spooner of the Weybridge Congregational Church. Carol's husband Reg heard from a fellow member of Veterans for Peace the story of the woman who wrote a song titled "Making Peace" after she was confronted by someone asking if she didn't have anything better to do than stand in a peace vigil. Relating that story at a Saturday morning vigil, Carol suggested a Middlebury community sing-along of peace songs and the idea caught fire! Carol contacted the songwriter (in California) for permission to include the song in a public sing-along and then organized the Palm Sunday Sing Out for Peace.

Nicole's article reflects her conversation with the minister of the CVUUS congregation and quotes the CVUUS Choir Director who was one of three song leaders for the event. This may have suggested, erroneously, extra credit due CVUUS for the very gratifying success of the Sing Out. I hope this letter will dispel that impression.

Ecumenical events like the Sing Out for Peace are an expression of the deep yearnings of all people for an end to violence in solving conflicts.

Sincerely,
Ann M. Ross

To the Editor:

We are delighted that the President and the Reappointments Committee have decided to renew Professor Laurie Essig's appointment to the College. Professor Essig is a gifted and talented teacher as well as a leading scholar. We are glad that the review process has allowed us to retain her. The students and our community will benefit from her contributions within and without the classroom.

Sincerely,

Holly Allen, Program in American Studies

Cheryl Faraone, Theatre Department and Program in Women's and Gender Studies

Juana Gamero de Coca, Spanish and Portuguese Department

Gloria Gonzalez-Zenteno, Spanish and Portuguese Department

Roman Graf, German Department

Bill Hart, History Department

Barbara Hofer, Psychology Department

Jon Isham, Economics Department

Antonia Losano, English Department

Ana Martinez-Lage, Spanish and Portuguese Department

Timi Mayer, Geography Department

Claudio Medeiros, Theatre Department

Sujata Moorti, Program in Women's and Gender Studies

Kevin Moss, Russian Department

Kamakshi Murti, German Department

Peggy Nelson, Sociology-Anthropology Department and Program in Women's and Gender Studies

Ellen Oxford, Sociology-Anthropology Department

William Poulin-Deltour, French Department

Burke Rochford, Sociology-Anthropology Department

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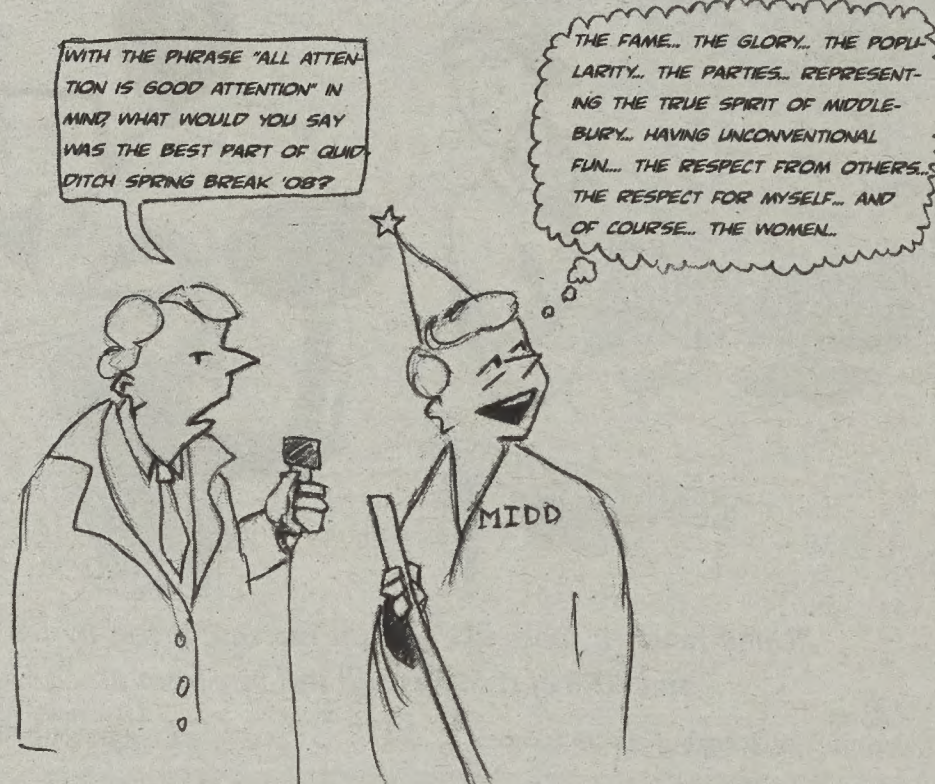
Linda White, East Asian Studies Department

Martha Woodruff, Philosophy Department

Catharine Wright, Writing Program

MIDDLEBURY QUIDDITCH

SPRING BREAK 08



Cartoon by John Birnbaum

op-ed: Rodrigo Seira

What we learn when they mess up

This past month was not an easy one for politicians. On March 10, *The New York Times* broke the story that linked New York Governor Eliot Spitzer to a prostitution ring, forcing him to resign only a few days later. On March 24, there came a second sex scandal as Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was indicted on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice after his denial of an extramarital affair. The three remaining presidential candidates also had some bruising moments during March as McCain misspoke in Iraq, Obama faced some tough questions about his pastor and CBS called out Clinton for her fake Bosnia story. Well, my mom always told me to learn from my mistakes but this March I think we should all learn from theirs.

The Republican nominee, Senator John McCain, was the first of the candidates to stumble during his much-publicized Iraq trip. During a trip intended to highlight his foreign policy expertise, McCain repeatedly misidentified some of the key players in the

troubles were not over. His "typical white woman" remark sparked further controversy and divisiveness for a candidate that preaches unity.

However, the latest — and possibly greatest — misspeak of the month was provided to us courtesy of Hillary Clinton. In several speeches and interviews this past month, Clinton repeatedly told the story of her visit to Bosnia as First Lady. She had claimed that while arriving at the airport, she was forced to run for cover under the threat of sniper fire, a story that didn't seem to check out. CBS was quick to rebroadcast their old coverage of the visit that shows a young, smiley Clinton posing for pictures and talking to a little girl on the tarmac. They couldn't even resist adding Clinton's obviously false description of the events on the bottom corner. After initially defending her position Senator Clinton gave up and told voters that she "misspoke" blaming it on sleep deprivation and tiredness.

So what did we learn from their mis-

The lessons should be pretty obvious — no hookers, no affairs and if you happen to get caught, please don't make your wife stand next to you at the press conference.

Iraq war. It wasn't until Senator Joseph Lieberman whispered in his ear during a live statement that McCain corrected himself.

While this story was largely overshadowed by other scandals, it does raise some questions. McCain's slip was surely not due to inexperience — so what happened? Some might argue that it was just a simple, thoughtless, mistake, but could it be that he had a "senior moment?" McCain is quick to remind the voters of his years of experience, but those years also add up to an age of 71. If elected, he would be the oldest president to ever take office, and mistakes like this makes me a little worried of what that age might imply.

The Democratic frontrunner, Barack Obama, had perhaps the worst month of his campaign. "Inflammatory" speeches given by Obama's former pastor became public and forced Obama to answer tough questions about their relationship. In an attempt to publicly distance himself, and in order to bring closure to the matter, Obama gave his now-famous race speech. While the speech had overall positive reviews — and almost four million YouTube views — Obama's

takes? From Spitzer and Kilpatrick, the lessons should be pretty obvious — no hookers, no affairs and if you happen to get caught, please don't make your wife stand next to you at the press conference. As for the candidates, the lessons might be more valuable. McCain is supposed to be the war veteran that is going to navigate our way through this foreign policy mess. But is he too old? Obama markets himself as a new type of politician — one that supersedes divides and does not partake in the old style of politics. But if these last weeks have taught us anything is that at his core he is still well ... a politician and susceptible to the same divisive influences. As for Clinton, her campaign has been built around the claim that she has the vast experience needed to lead this country. The Bosnia stumble is simply the latest development in a series of blows suggesting that she might not be that experienced. These misspeaks seem to hurt every candidate's strength, a combination that has proven to be deadly. The question now becomes who can do the best damage control?

Rodrigo Seira '11 is from Boulder, Col.

notes from the desk: Andrew Throdahl

Counter-productive Gaypril event baffles

What could be duller than sexuality? Sure, it comes with its complications, like relationships, harassment and discrimination, but for most of the normal, well-educated students of Middlebury College, sex is tedious and predictable, nothing more than a lust that is occasionally entertained on weekends. In my mind, people who wear their sexuality on their sleeve are just bored by themselves, desperate for some type of minor thrill in their lives, some type of superficial scandal. They are lost in the maze of their own insecurities.

Last week, upon receiving an e-mail invitation to a "very exclusive" "secret Queer party," sent out by the masterminds of "Gaypril" to all the "LGBTQs" on campus, it seemed too adolescent to be taken seriously. Having some type of party defined by the orientation of the partygoers gives sex more weight than it deserves. It was therefore no party I would ever want to attend.

The Middlebury Open Queer Alliance (MOQA) must be very thick to actually contrive segregation for its own trivial purposes. I can imagine the party-planners envisioning themselves uprooting flowers from an arid, heterosexual landscape.

To add insult to injury, the theme of the party was "Gay Cliché," (or shall I say, in keeping with the portmanteau "Gaypril," "Clichay?"). The invite suggested those attending be "creative and original." I was always under the impression that the gay cliché was a taut heterosexual invention, but perhaps I've overlooked something. A friend of mine joked that dressing as a Catholic priest would, technically, have correctly fallen under "Gay Cliché," although surely what the invite meant was "dress like a promiscuous churl." If the theme of the party had not been gay sex, but the consequences of sex (love and marriage) regardless of inclination, the

whole thing may have been suitable — although probably not much of a party by college standards.

Some may scowl at my wagging finger and say, "Come now, Andrew, why does a silly thing like a party matter? Let your fellow queers party, and then you can all have a riotous rainbow orgy in front of the conservative suits." If changes are expected to take place in that aforementioned heterosexual landscape, then men and women, gay and straight, must coexist and work together, in work and in play. If MOQA — or gay activism in its entirety at that — intends to be constructive, "secret Queer parties" are disadvantageous.

Perhaps a more powerful statement would be to retract my disapproval entirely, because, as I hope one day the people behind MOQA understand, subverting something only reaffirms it. How ironic for Gaypril.

Andrew Throdahl is an Arts Editor from Allendale, N.J.

heardoncampus

It is truly overwhelming to think about what people did on my behalf and that they actually turned it around.

— Laurie Essig in response to the College Reappointments Committee's decision.

op-ed: Corinne Almquist and David Dolginow

The dream reborn: building a green economy for all

"We are the dream generation, we are the dream reborn." This chant started as a whisper, stirring more than a thousand people to unite in song and hope. We rose in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of a just and equal society, and in a promise to pursue his dream. We gathered in the tradition of a southern Baptist church to honor Dr. King and to create a green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty and fight global warming.

Green for All, a new organization founded by human rights activists Van Jones and Majors Carter, hosted the Dream Reborn conference in Memphis, Tenn., this past weekend. The goal: to create millions of green jobs that ensure a place for everyone in America's new clean energy economy.

A far cry from stereotypical perceptions of environmentalists, over 75 percent of the people gathered were people of color.

and green architecture. As demand for environmental action increases, millions of job opportunities are created. These jobs are stable, cannot be outsourced and pay the livable wage that so many Americans do not currently have access to. Green jobs strengthen local communities and economies while protecting the health of our planet and all of its citizens. No longer will Americans be forced to work in hazardous conditions earning minimum wage — they can instead be trained for green jobs that provide a safe working environment and a larger sense of purpose.

At the conference, we were able to attend a variety of workshops focused on building the rapidly growing movement that calls for green jobs. Some of the workshops we participated in included the National Movement for Green Jobs, Food Justice and the Green Economy, Green-Collar

Dr. King envisioned a world of peace, equality, and economic justice that transcended the divisions of race and class.

While a significant number of students were present, most people who attended the conference were already involved in careers and organizations dedicated to turning the dream of a green economy into a reality for all Americans.

Dr. King envisioned a world of peace, equality, and economic justice that transcended the divisions of race and class. He dreamed of the day when "little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers." At the Dream Reborn, we met to create a future of a green economy that provides pathways out of poverty for all races, a future Dr. King would have been proud of.

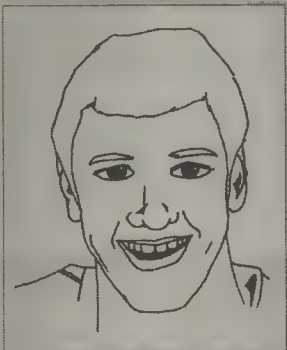
A green economy ensures career opportunities in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture

Job Training Programs, Financing Green-Collar Jobs, Communicating the Dream, and Weaving Sustainability and Spirituality into the Work. Thousands of people have been involved in founding successful green job training programs all across the country — it is our turn to spread their success stories and to generate our own.

Forty years ago, a bullet killed the dreamer, but his dream did not die. It lives on in the hearts and minds of a new generation, one dedicated to economic security and a healthy planet for all citizens of the world. In Van Jones' words, "Our dream must uplift the people — and the planet, too. This is the calling of our time."

Corinne Almquist '09 is from Randolph, NJ. and David Dolginow '09 is from Leawood, Kan.

A preface to lunch: James O'Brien Bible-beating Conservatives



campuscolumnist

I was listening to WRMC 91.1 — my favorite on-campus radio station — when one show ended and on came a show called Neo-Con Air. I didn't actually listen to the show, but it did jog my memory about the fun Neo-Con posters that I used to walk by on the way to Ross Dining Hall. I remember one of the posters depicted a constipated-looking John McCain with a caption that read "He Ain't Conservative." The indication here is that if he were conservative he would know exactly where to find a good laxative. Now, I have serious gripes with conservative viewpoints, but we can all agree it is important to have a president with a healthy colon.

My main ideological problem with conservatives is pretty simple — there are really few things more frustrating than the whole crusade against gay marriage. This is how Republicans are getting people elected? To quickly summarize, gay marriage is an issue that is, and should be, important to most homosexuals. Heterosexuals on the other hand really have nothing to lose or gain from the existence of gay marriage. If one group of people care passionately about an issue and another is unaf-

fected, why shouldn't the passionate have their way? Unfortunately, the idea of a homosexual union is terribly bothersome to the religious right. They have this notion that marriage is "between a man and a woman." I have to tell these people that just because their Christian, contraceptive-free marriage produced 12 children whose names are all variations of "Cletus" — their God-fearing father's name — doesn't mean that they have cornered the market on the word "marriage."

Conservative Christians, a base which appears to somehow control the values of the Republican party, claim that gay marriage is bad because the Bible tells them so. That seems like an excellent reason, unless you have actually read the Bible. Not only is there no mention of "gay marriage" in the Bible, but there are so many ridiculous passages that its hard to take the scripture seriously. Most of the Bible is patently ridiculous. Romans 1:31-32 goes so far as to say that homosexuals are "worthy of death." This language doesn't quite capture the sentiment — since we are all mortal, God apparently considers all of us as being "worthy of death" — but you get the point. So just saying, "It's in the Bible," doesn't really justify anything. The Book of Leviticus — Leviticus is my favorite name in the Bible because it sounds both austere and ridiculous at the same time — states that gay males should "surely be put to death." Even conservatives who are not constipated would agree this is a bit harsh. So I would propose a quick and simple solution to this problem. The religious conservatives allow gay people to get married, but in their minds they can believe that it is a secular marriage and not a religious one. They can also believe that God is

watching them to make sure they're not gay. This way everyone wins. The conservative Christians continue to think that they are holier than everyone else, and the rest of us don't have to put up with their emphasis on semantics.

In an effort to do justice to Leviticus, I dug up two more pearls of wisdom.

1. "While your wife is living, never marry her sister as a rival wife and have sexual intercourse with her." Can you imagine trying to explain to your wife that you just married her sister as a rival and then had "sexual intercourse" with her? She would definitely laugh at you for saying "sexual intercourse." Then she might get angry.

2. "And if a man take a wife and her mother, it is wickedness: they shall be burnt with fire, both he and they; that there be no wickedness among you." This sounds like the plot of an award-winning pornographic film.

I went to a Catholic high school so I've been hearing justifications for the "bad" parts of the Bible for years. The truth, however, remains that if a book that promoted intolerance, slavery, violence and misogyny came out tomorrow, the book would not be widely accepted as holy. It would, however, sell millions of copies due to a media stir and the author's controversial appearance on "Live with Regis and Kelly."

If the Bible is the Word of God, then God must really be pissed at us and our sort-of-tolerant ways. This scenario seems unlikely, but on the off-chance that I am wrong and the conservative Christians are right, I'll take my place in Hell knowing that I never really had a chance.

James O'Brien '10 is an English from Medfield, Mass.

web poll: What do you think about allowing second-semester first-years to pledge social houses?



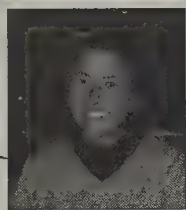
"You need time to figure out what you want your Middlebury experience to be."

— ALI JAWIN '08



"I should be allowed to buy friends if I want."

— LEWIS MERL '11.5



"Yes, they're 19 years old. They can make up their own minds."

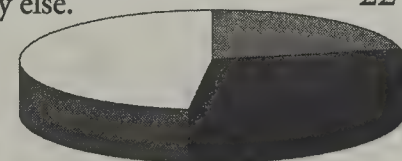
— MEAGHAN MCCGRATH '08.5

Absolutely, first-years should have the right like everybody else.

48%

Wait, we still have social houses.

22%



No way, give them a full year to decide.

Results taken from poll at www.middleburycampus.com

Next week's web poll: Did the administration act appropriately in the SIM hazing case?



Sprawl Crawl

Mary Lane and Derek Schlickeisen, Focus Editors

Hannah Wilson, Layout

Possibility of chain stores sparks differing opinions among residents

Just two months ago, news happening off campus trickled into the Collège and galvanized talks among students. With Carol's Hungry Mind Café potentially trekking towards its demise and the likelihood of Starbucks, Staples and possibly Wal-Mart near the Collège, students, faculty and Vermont residents have felt tension rising between local businesses and big chain malls within Addison County.

In February 2007, both Starbucks and Staples were planning to build a new store in The Centre shopping plaza off Route 7 where TJ Maxx and Hannaford are currently located. These proposals caused a stir in town, with petitions to ban these stores springing up in various locations such as Carol's Hungry Mind and Main St. Stationery. Eventually, after a year of petitioning and town meetings, residents were able to push Starbucks into announcing this past January that it would not come to Middlebury. However, Staples is still considering a Middlebury location.

For those who support big shopping malls, the benefits of a larger variety of products for cheaper prices and new jobs that could potentially boost the town's economy.

"We are able to provide what consumers want in a grocery store," said Shaw's service desk administration Randy Garrows of the chain. "We provide more variety of food and convenience due to our location."

While there is concern that chains would become a potential threat to local businesses in town by taking over the market, administrators at Hannaford's disagreed. "We do not think Hannaford's is potentially putting aside locally-run grocery stores," said Brian Jackson, Hannaford's associate manager. "Every store still has the opportunity to thrive."

An even deeper concern is how large malls would take away a sense of community within Middlebury. "I think it is a sense of pride for the state to be culturally self-sufficient and just rely on local businesses," said a Middlebury Union High School senior. "I think this is deeply rooted in the Vermont culture."

Many Middlebury residents feel that while big businesses would isolate themselves from the community, local shops are more likely to be part of the town and its organizations.

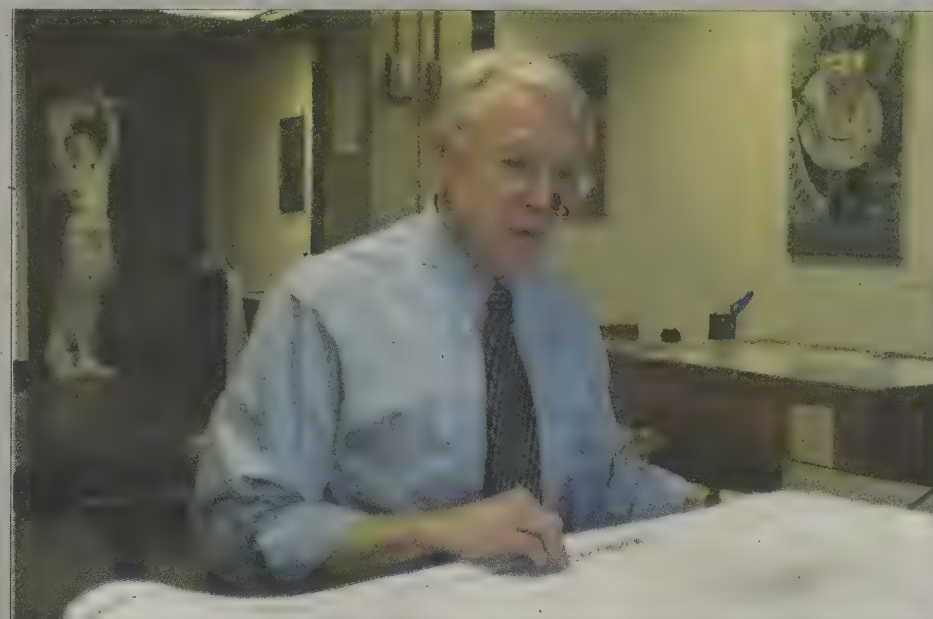
"I once received a very bad impression of a big shopping center ruining a nearby town," said Professor of Mathematics Priscilla Bremser. "I remember seeing an old Wal-Mart beside a town. The old Wal-Mart has been abandoned and immediately right next to it, there was another, bigger Wal-Mart. But the sad thing was how the company just left that old Wal-Mart to rot right next to town instead of taking care of it and taking it down. Local businesses tend to be more concerned about the community than big chain shops. Just look at the back of the Relay for Life T-shirts and see how many community businesses support it."

Some Middlebury students do not see the necessity of having a Starbucks or a Staples in town

when many of their products can already be purchased through local businesses. "I think I would probably not even shop at Starbucks or at Staples when I can get a cup of coffee in the dining halls or the library cafe and buy notebooks and pens conveniently at the Collège's Book Store," said Ilisa Goodman '09.5.

Other students are up for it. "I think that if we have a Starbucks here, students would not have to make it a day event and drive all the way to Burlington to have a cup of coffee," said Michael Crittall '11.

Reporting by Nicole Lam



GLENN ANDRES — THE MAN WITH A PLAN

Bente Madson

Christian A. Johnson Professor of Art and Architecture Glenn Andres, a 38-year veteran of the Collège and a member of the town's Advisory Planning Committee, is concerned about the long-term trend towards more box stores and sprawl in Addison County. "We're just an advisory body," he explained. "When development comes to Middlebury, they send the plans to us and we try to salvage them from an aesthetic standpoint. We stick our noses in, and we're often heard as a result."

Town center battles Route 7 sprawl

The contrast is vivid — historic storefronts and family-owned businesses on the one hand, and immediately recognizable corporate logos and sprawling parking lots on the other.

Yet there is more to the conflict between the downtown's business center surrounding Main Street and its emerging competitor along Route 7 — one represents a past defined by Vermont's landscape of compact villages, while the other, according to some developers' vision, offers a response to modern commercial realities.

"It's very polarized," explained Christian A. Johnson, Professor of Art and Architecture Glenn Andres. "Those who prioritize economic development above all feel that those who want to stress the values of village life are old-fashioned and unrealistic. They call them elitists or dreamers."

Recent years have brought the attempted addition to the town's landscape of "big box" stores that have become symbols of modern commercial sprawl — this February, the development firm Myron Hunt Associates put forward a proposal to construct a Staples along Route 7, and Wal-Mart has been trying for years for permission to build one of its superstores in Addison County.

The trend across the state, according to Andres, is alarming, and the consequences are potentially severe. Wal-Mart recently won its battle against community activists in St. Albans to construct a superstore there, adding to its fleet of four centers across the state (its largest, in Williston, sprawls over 100,000 square feet). In part as a result of the "big box" development is the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2004 placed Vermont on its listing of endangered sites — the first time an entire state has made the list.

"Vermont has a remarkable small-scale urbanism with real compact villages," said Andres, who also serves on the town's Design Advisory Committee, comprised of both architects and five town residents. "The 20th century diffused some of them, but the pattern primarily remains dense villages surrounded by open countryside. Today, with the greater environmental concern, there's been a renewed push to locate close to home in town centers. But the reality is that stores like Staples and Wal-

Mart don't want to locate there."

Beyond the town's historic landscape, the impact of Wal-Mart-style development would hit the pocketbooks of those residents who make their living through small businesses. According to Wal-Mart's own analysis, in order for a store built in Addison County to be profitable, it would have to take in nearly 80 percent of all retail dollars spent in the county. For its part, the proposed Staples presents a direct challenge to Main Street Stationery, which cannot place the same bulk and specialty orders for merchandise that its chain competitor can.

"Everything would go," said Andres. "I've seen it happen. The downtown areas of small towns where this happens are completely dead. It's T-shirt shops, tattoo parlors and empty store fronts. Wal-Mart comes in and there's this empty sucking sound. Properties downtown are rendered almost worthless."

Unlike St. Albans, however, the town of Middlebury has an ally in the College. While the administration has no explicit stance on chain development in Addison County, its pattern of investment in the town and the spending habits of its students, parents and faculty support the small businesses in opposition to the potential box stores.

"Those stores are largely geared towards the kind of population the College brings to the community," said Andres. "The College is also now taking an active role in supporting planning measures that emphasize the village — things like the bridge project and support of the Town Hall Theater. These are very important for the life of the village."

Yet that support only goes so far: the town's anti-development organizers, most if not all of them volunteers, are on their own in the fight against sprawling development. Their position was bolstered with the 2002 passage by the Vermont legislature of a bill offering tax incentives for business owners to renovate historic buildings rather than building anew, but Andres and his colleagues worry that the resources of multi-



Jane Yoon
The Rainbow Room — a staple of mainstreet — faces competition from TJ Maxx, head first. They rely on local charm to attract customers.

national corporations like Wal-Mart may prove too much.

"The problem is, if Wal-Mart thinks it's economically feasible, they get their lawyers in there and keep pounding away," he said. "And volunteer groups and communities get worn down — they can wear out anybody. So yes, I'm concerned."

Reporting by Derek Schilckeisen

Middlebury's diverse student population finds in its quaint college town something which is becoming increasingly rare in the 50 states and more than 40 countries its students are from: a respite from the sprawl of globalized chain stores. As unique as the town of Middlebury is, though, it is not guaranteed to stay that way, as witnessed by the recent attempts by Starbucks and Staples to open stores. Whether seen as a potential benefit to Middlebury residents or a potential death to her local business charm, the issue remains a persistent topic in the mind of students, faculty and town residents.

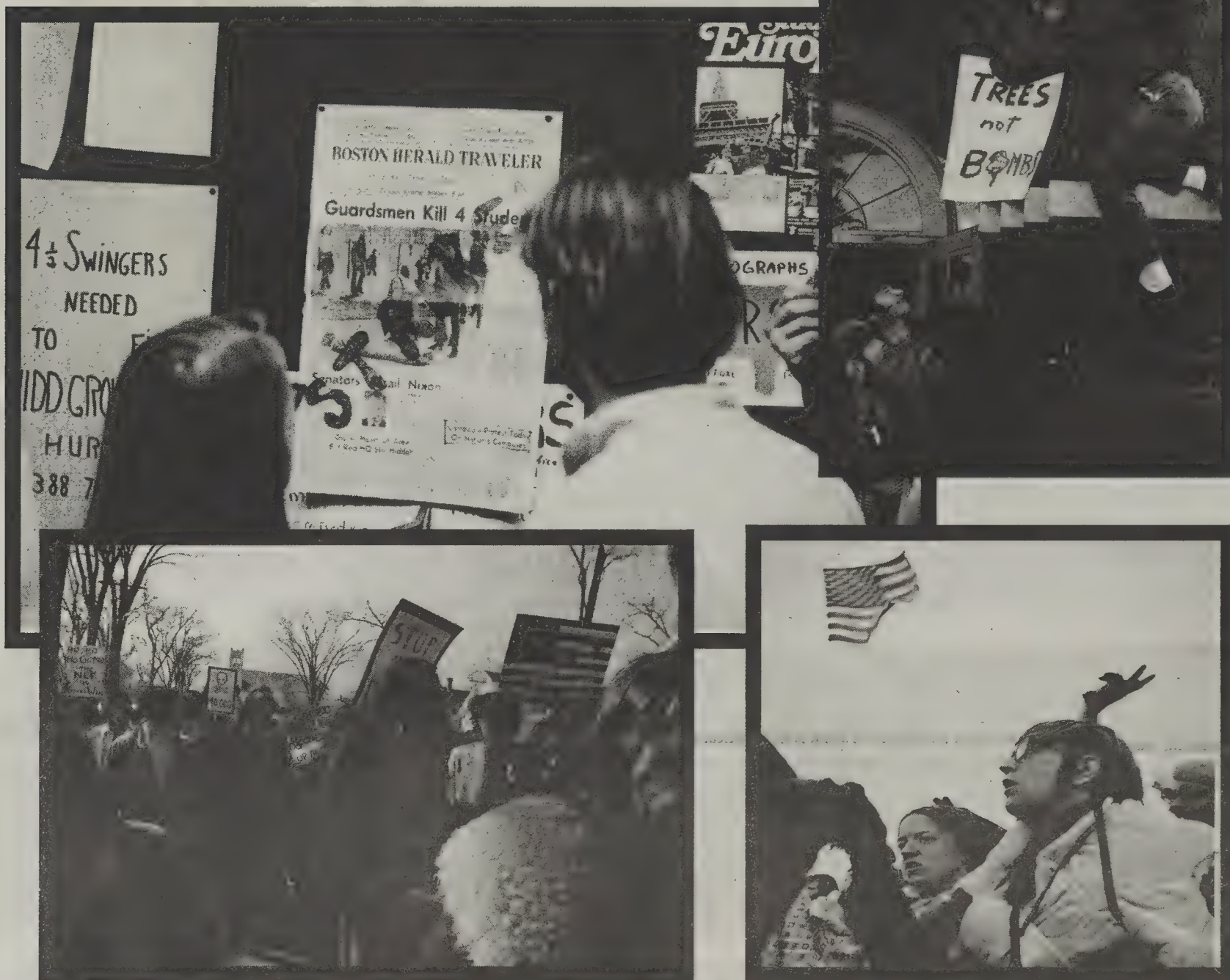


The Middlebury Campus

STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

A look at Middlebury's politically active past

Clockwise from top left: Students in Proctor Hall check out posters for campus rallies following the Kent State shootings; one student reaches new heights with his politically humorous sign; students march over the backdrop of the American flag; a large scale rally passes the town's cathedral.



By Thomas Brant
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

At 7 a.m. on the morning of May 5, 1970, first-year Howard Burchman picked up the phone in the WRMC-FM office. His vision was blurry and his voice probably sounded tired. He had been up all night, his eyes glued to the radio station's teletype feed, which was spitting out bits and pieces of news about the Vietnam War protest a day earlier at Kent State University in Ohio. He knew that four students had been shot by police, and like hundreds of thousands of other college students across the country on May 5, Burchman knew they could not die in vain. The voice on the other end of the line finally answered, and Burchman told Dean of the College Dennis O'Brien that he and other students wanted a suspension of classes and a memorial service for the Kent State four. He got his wish at noon, when the College Council assembled in a special meeting and voted to suspend classes until the following Monday. But Burchman did not go back to his room and catch up on much-needed sleep. In fact, he and other Middlebury students were busier in the next few days than they had probably been all year. They pushed aside schoolwork and grumpiness over the recent snowfall and turned their attention to rallies, protests ... and arson. The Strike of May 1970 had begun.

Five Days in May

Why did Middlebury care so much about political activism during the volatile 1960s and '70s? It sure seems like modern Middlebury students kick back their heels and crack open their books in their own personal bubbles inside of a larger bubble that seals off the campus from the rest of the world. Students

occasionally hear stories about the College Democrats chasing votes for Hillary or Obama or read in the spaghetti-splattered events schedule in Ross that the College Republicans have brought another conservative speaker to campus. What makes our 1970s counterparts so different?

The students' reaction to the shootings at Kent State holds some of the answers. It revealed their deep connection with the anti-war movements taking place at other colleges and universities across the nation.

"As the words of the Kent State killings spread across this campus, the students were deeply shocked and in despair," Gregor Hileman, editor of the *Middlebury Magazine*, wrote that summer. "Suddenly feeling themselves a threatened minority, they urgently desired some symbolic expression of solidarity with each other, with the faculty, and with their peers at other schools."

For the rest of the week and into the weekend, the students expressed their solidarity by holding protests, rallies, canvassing nearby towns, cutting their hair and pretty much any other way they could think of. The protests were organized and well-attended — not just by the dreadlocked hippies, but also by students, faculty and members of the College and town community.

At 7:30 p.m., on the same day that Burchman set the strike in motion, Mead Chapel was jammed to the rafters with students and faculty who gathered to mourn the deaths of the Kent State four. The College chaplain uttered a few remarks, the College choir sang and the memorial service ended with the hymn "Turn back, O man, forsake thy foolish ways."

Then the real rally began.

The students, jammed inside the chapel like sardines, stuck around until 10:45 p.m., listening to speeches by professors, students and political activists. Andrew Wentnick '70, now the Curator of Special Collections and Archives, remembered the electric atmosphere of the rallies.

"What was extraordinary was that the entire student body as well as the faculty came together and spoke passionately," he said. "The initial feeling after the Kent State [deaths] was 'What difference is a protest at Middlebury going to make?' But I think over time there was a consensus that we should join other students and universities in protesting the war."

They were still at it early the next morning in Proctor Hall, the organizers' informal headquarters. Organizers set up a "strike information center" on May 6, and no one rushed past the tables on their way to make panninis. Fifty or 60 people were milling about, some wearing red rags torn into armbands, others reading posters taped to the walls with information from the WRMC teletype machine that detailed how their fellow students across America were dealing with the turmoil in the wake of the shooting. Students also paid attention to signs that called for action on campus and around town.

"We need 60 people every night for the next three days to patrol this campus. Sign up!" one sign loudly proclaimed.

"Sign petition to Senator Prouty," another commanded.

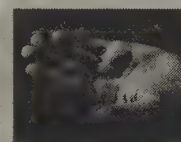
At 11 a.m., a second rally was held in Mead Chapel (Proctor's terrace was ruled out because of the snow and sleet). The downstairs pews filled quickly and left students peering around rafters in the balcony to see the speakers. One student read a letter explaining to her professors why she was going to skip her classes for the rest of the year to help the anti-war cause.

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Everybody Spanks
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Activist fires of 1970s extinguished by apathy

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'I'm mad, you're mad, we're all mad'

But the next morning, students awoke to some bad news. It seemed that the politically charged atmosphere was taking an ugly turn.

At 4:15 a.m. on May 7, someone had broken the glass entrance to Recitation Hall, poured gasoline on rags at the base of the walls and touched them off. Flames quickly leapt up the staircase and enveloped the attic of the small World War I-era wooden building. Fire engines from Middlebury and Vergennes screeched to the site 15 minutes later, but it was too late. By the time the flames were gone, they had gutted the building, and with it the main rooms of Middlebury's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) center. It turned out that it was the third attempt to vandalize ROTC offices at Middlebury that week. Public Safety officers had foiled previous break-in attempts at the ROTC headquarters in Alumni House on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

"Initially there was great shock and concern" about the Recitation fire, Wentnick recalled. But since the building was slated for demolition anyway, he and other students believed that it was an appropriate, albeit dramatic protest.

"The majority of students felt that if something was going to be burned down, it might as well be Recitation Hall, because it was expendable," Wentnick said.

But the vandalism did not end there. Later that day, someone had spray-painted the word "scab" on the set of the upcoming play "Alice in Wonderland," one of the few events scheduled to take place during the strike and cancellation of classes. The word scab implied that the show was breaking the strike, but that was not true, according to Wentnick, who played the Cheshire Cat.

"Some people thought that such a play was superficial and shouldn't go on in light of what was happening around the country," he said. "But the truth was, the interpretation we made of the [script] was very loose." The actors had in fact turned the play into a subtle war protest of their own.

"We felt that in times of national crisis, it was important that art make a statement against the establishment," Wentnick said. "One of my lines as the Cheshire Cat was 'I'm mad, you're mad, we're all mad.'"

The cast and crew slept in Wright Theater to avoid any further damage to the set, and when the curtain rose that weekend, it revealed a sold-out and appreciative audience.

On Monday at 9 a.m., classes resumed. The Strike of 1970 was over.

No 'emotional commitment'

The Five Days in May might have represented the zenith of political activism at Middlebury. Barely 10 years later, students were already beginning to feel comfortably isolated in the bubble that we know so well today. Marion Lee '80 put it a little more bluntly in a 1979 interview with *The Middlebury Campus*.

"You could drop a bomb on New York City and it wouldn't affect the people up here," she said.

Rick Glaser, who wrote the column in which Lee's quote appeared, agreed with her. He noted that students no longer had an "emo-

tional commitment" towards activism.

"There are four reasons, I believe, why this campus is politically stagnant," Glaser wrote. "First, the student body is unaware and unin-

Nearly 30 years after Glaser wrote those words, it seems that the College is still politically stagnant. This time around, however, inflation is not as much of a problem and the 2008

elections certainly serve as a unifying issue. Where is our campus activism, then?

Emily Gullickson '10, president of the College Democrats, believes that some of it may be taking a back seat to individual political projects.

"People just dedicate all of their time to a single cause instead of engaging in political activism," she said.

The priorities of students and administrators alike are partly to blame. Everything from the Projects for Peace fund, designed to help students pursue world peace, to the enormously demanding workload seem to tell the modern Middlebury student that college is for studying, and his or her own time is for political projects. Maybe that is just how the majority of students want to spend their four years here. But for those who are looking to stir the pot of campus activism, remember that the extraordinary events of the Five Days in May 1970 were started with a single phone call at 7 a.m.



In the wake of the Kent State riots of 1970, students set fire to the College's ROTC headquarters, destroying Recitation Hall (formerly located next to Carr Hall).

Courtesy

formed of what is going on. Second, there is no unifying issue. Third, Middlebury is not an ur-

You could drop a bomb on New York City and it wouldn't affect the people up here.

—Marion Lee '80

ban center and therefore attracts less politically active people, and finally, there is the ever-present problem of inflation. For good or for bad, Middlebury is in the Stone Age when it comes to political activism."

winners&losers

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture?
The Campus gives its weekly report.

Spring time comes to Midd

Take out your sundresses and shorts and get those cool shades and sunblock ready. Spring is in the air...

The sun sets

Those booty shorts aren't as cute when you're walking home from the library at 9 p.m. ... should have brought a change of clothes.

Pregnant Men

Arnold started the trend 15 years ago and it's finally catching on.

Pregnant Women

Unfortunately for women everywhere, 99.99999999 percent of them still carry the burden.

Gaypril

Color Week gives us a chance to show off our new wardrobes while showing our support.

With all the rain and mud, we might as well just call it Mush.



the ethicist

by Amanda Greene

My friend was eating lunch in Atwater, when Public Safety came to boot and remove a vehicle that was parked in a faculty/staff space. The owner of the vehicle was, conveniently, eating lunch in Atwater as well, and ran out of the dining hall to rescue his car. It was clear that he had been out, and had parked in the faculty/staff space because all the student spaces were full, and that he was planning on moving his car after lunch.

Public Safety would not let the student move his car. Instead, they put a boot on it, and left it in the faculty/staff spot, preventing any college employee from parking in the designated space. If Public Safety's objective was to clear out the spot, why did they object to letting the student move his car? What was achieved by forbidding the conscientious student to move his car, and by fining the student 90 dollars to tow it to the golf course, and ten dollars for a parking ticket? Yes, the student shouldn't have parked there, but he was apologetic and willing to move his car promptly. A warning would have been enough to stop the student from committing the same offense in the future.

It seems that, in this situation, the desired outcome (removing the car) was ignored in order to unnecessarily discipline the student and complicate the circumstances. I understand that had the car been parked in a metered spot, that a ticket would have been given regardless of the owner's presence. But we aren't in such an environment, and there is no rule that demands that Public Safety punish the driver. In this instance, the ticketing and towing was a matter of judgment, and was an instance where Public Safety was unnecessarily inflexible and harsh.

And now for this week's question:

Q: I'm a student grader for an economics class. At the beginning of the semester my professor told me that it should take around four hours each week to correct homework, and that it was up to me to enter my work hours on BannerWeb. I am a particularly fast worker, and always grade the homework in two hours or under. I always report that it takes me four hours to do the work, because that's how long the professor expected it to take. Is it ethical for me to "inflate" the hours I spend on my job? It doesn't seem fair that I should get paid less just because I am a fast worker.

— Perplexed-about-Pay

A: Your job is one in which you are paid by the hour. It is clear from how time is entered on BannerWeb, that you are paid based on how much time your work takes. If you were salaried, then it would be of benefit to you to do your work as quickly as possible, but in this situation you don't get any more from being speedy. You should not say you worked for more hours than you did. If you are concerned you should talk to the economics professor, and perhaps he will give you additional work to do, or, if he thinks you should receive more compensation will tell you to "inflate" your hours to that you are paid (as a ratio) more per hour. If your professor says it is okay to enter more hours than you have worked, then you are free to do so, because he is a representative of the institution you are working for.

Want to consult the ethicist? Send submissions to amgreene@middlebury.edu.

The D-spot



by Dina Magaril

Let's talk about spanking. I think it's something that needs to be addressed. There exists a school of thought that believes that all human beings can be divided into spankers and spankees. This theory, as many of us are finding out by the time we hit our senior years, is entirely valid. We all love to spank, or to be spanked. Whether the need to spank comes from some twisted Freudian concept about mothers, children and naughtiness or simply from an acceptable imitation of what one sees in porn, the act of spanking has been executed, talked about or thought about in almost every sexual interaction.

Though women are just as likely as men to be spankers, it is often the men that are initiators of the act, whether verbally asking for permission, or simply tapping that behind. There is some dispute over why men feel the need to spank. Some say it is a way to exert control over their partners, others see it as a way to get closer to the often-neglected female derriere, while a few see it as completely instinctual and swear they didn't even notice they have spanked until being alerted to the location of their hands during foreplay.

There do exist those few unlucky individuals that have been completely absent from the spanking scene. Whether they are part of a couple or simply single and looking to spank, there's hope for you yet. There are still ways to bring up spanking if you are an amateur to the art. Like in most situations, there are appropriate and inappropriate times to bring up spanking. Foreplay is a good place to start. A partner may ask whether it is okay to spank, or even let one spank out and wait for a reaction. A spankee might at first be surprised but will most likely not be disappointed.

As with all intricate practices, there exist various levels and techniques of spanking, the better half of which I will impart to you all now. At the first level, there is the soft spank. This spank is usually practiced during more intimate interactions, such as post-coitus, or as you pass someone in the hall or in class. The soft spank may involve a simply pat of the palm or even a full-finger caress, depending on visibility and expertise of the spanker. The next level of spanking is the taut tap. This is most often practiced during foreplay, when parties are still partially clothed. This spank relies almost entirely on positioning of the fingers and involves little palm action. The taut spank can be interchanged with the soft spank on multiple occasions. Moving up along the spanking scale we come to the full out spank. This spank is not for novices and may leave a red mark on the buttock. This spank should be utilized as a signifier that foreplay is moving into home plate or can be practiced, with discretion, during the actual act.

As with all relationships based on equality and sharing, partners should switch off being the spankee and spanker. Each couple may find their own ways of doing this but may I suggest keeping a tally in plain view so as not to leave anyone out of the fun. For those who consider themselves professionals, the multiple hard spank may be employed. This remains the most controversial of the spans and should only be practiced with consent. This spank is usually employed as one or more parties are reaching climax, and is often accompanied by a yell or whoop. Beware, the multiple spank may bruise for several days. As spring approaches and the campus beings to feel a bit friskier, don't be surprised to see your classmates bringing a pillow to class or gently massaging their backsides. The need to spank is in all of us, and once it rises to the surface, there's no telling what will happen.

Queer studies panel questions norms

By Rachael Jennings
FEATURES EDITOR

Who are you? Why are you here at Middlebury? What categorizations make up your identity and why do those groupings exist? On Monday, April 7, as part of the Gaypril series, a Queer Studies Panel took place in Hillcrest to stir up questions like these and raise awareness about the depth and profundity of Queer Studies in a dynamic world.

Beyond recent news like the pregnancy of transgender Thomas Beady and other issues of popular culture, Associate Professor of German Roman Graf, Assistant Professor of Sociocultural Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies Laurie Essig and Women and Gender Studies Chair Sujata Moorti formed the diverse and knowledgeable panel that initiated deeper questions of identity.

Essig began the hour by explaining to the circle of about 25 listeners how Queer Studies originated. Coming into academic awareness in the 1980s, the theory followed feminism. However, its predecessor — feminism — relies on the conception that socially constructed boundaries exist and need to be broken. Queer theorists view the world in much more fluid categories.

"It is about exploring the questions," remarked Essig. "How did we ever start to think that there are gay or straight people? How did we ever start to think that there are even men or women?"

Further, though the movement could not have occurred when it did without feminism, Moorti explained that Queer theory is constantly pushing against feminism. She brought up famous artist Frida Kahlo — feminists declared that as a woman she should be celebrated, the gay and lesbian movement adopted her with the knowledge of her many — and often homosexual — affairs, yet the Queer theorists asked, "Why is it so important to fix her as homosexual or bisexual? Why is it expected that we should find this in her art? If you remove the categories, what happens?"

Queer studies essentially examine life outside of its categories and norms. As Graf described, theorists study "things that don't line up. It is anything not 'straight' and normed," he said, "It shows that things are not naturally normed. It also shows that things can be un-normed."

The panelists used the example of a baby's birth. Queer theorists believe that in our current culture if a baby is born ambiguous in any way, the doctors "fix" the uncertainty — the birth certificate needs to be stamped. The child is determined to be either male or female and then influenced to follow the according normative example. In this way, culture, politics and economics forces people to "be" either one gender or the other from

birth.

In fact, the first question Essig asks her students is usually, "What is your gender and how do you know?"

Queer theorists trace the archaeology of knowledge back to what first decided that humans should be separated into female and

well.

"It's not something you can't do," said Essig. "We can all be queer. It is not just about sexuality. Ask the questions: 'When did happiness become what we pursue? Where did capitalism begin?'"

Yet the problem comes in the idea of



Grace Duggan

Laurie Essig (center) discusses the ins and outs of gender identity in the sociopolitical sphere.

male camps, bisexual, homosexual and heterosexual classes.

Essig elaborated that there is comfort in categorization and gave a personal example. At a meeting, Essig once identified as "queer" and when the minutes were typed up it read "gay" instead.

"Queer theory's purpose is to shake up the answer of 'I am ... anything!'" remarked Essig. "Any claim like that you make needs to be taken from three steps back. You need to ask, 'Why am I this?' and 'Who isn't included in this category?'"

Provoking many questions, the professors received many questions in turn. A common question of the attendees was just how to incorporate Queer theory into life and academia at Middlebury.

The panel suggested that the College obtain a grant to effectively train the professors in Queer theory, or bring an expert in for a seminar devoted to its study. The current deficiency at Middlebury is a lack in professors who sustain an adequate knowledge base.

"That is how you force the school to react," said Graf. "You ask questions. If they don't know how to answer, they need to learn." The panelists agreed that pressure, however, not only needs to be placed not on just professors but the administration as

creating a Queer Studies Department. Queer theorists do not condone the departmentalization of anything, and that is why most agree that a center would be most appropriate. "When Women's Studies was departmentalized, it lost its bite," explained Moorti. "It has become quite disengaged with the lives of women. A new norm is constructed all of the time, and that is the issue."

Apart from forming a center, the panel emphasized the integration of Queer theory into every department, as now it is only actively represented by three professors.

Another question raised was the notion of choice — do queer theorists believe that volition determines if an individual is gay or straight?

The panel agreed that according to Queer theory, to whom we are attracted is a product of socialization. If there is any biological basis, one can only reach it through culture. Using the terminology "gay or straight" in itself goes against the theory, as those words presume that there are defined "men" and "women."

Graf answered this question astutely — "Your erotic object choice is informed by your surroundings," he said. "And why are we talking about who we are having sex with instead of what we like to do?"

One student, Chrissy Etienne '08, commented, "If you ask me if I am a lesbian or not, I would respond that it depends on the second." Etienne, like many, explained that one does not always only like women or men — it depends on many factors.

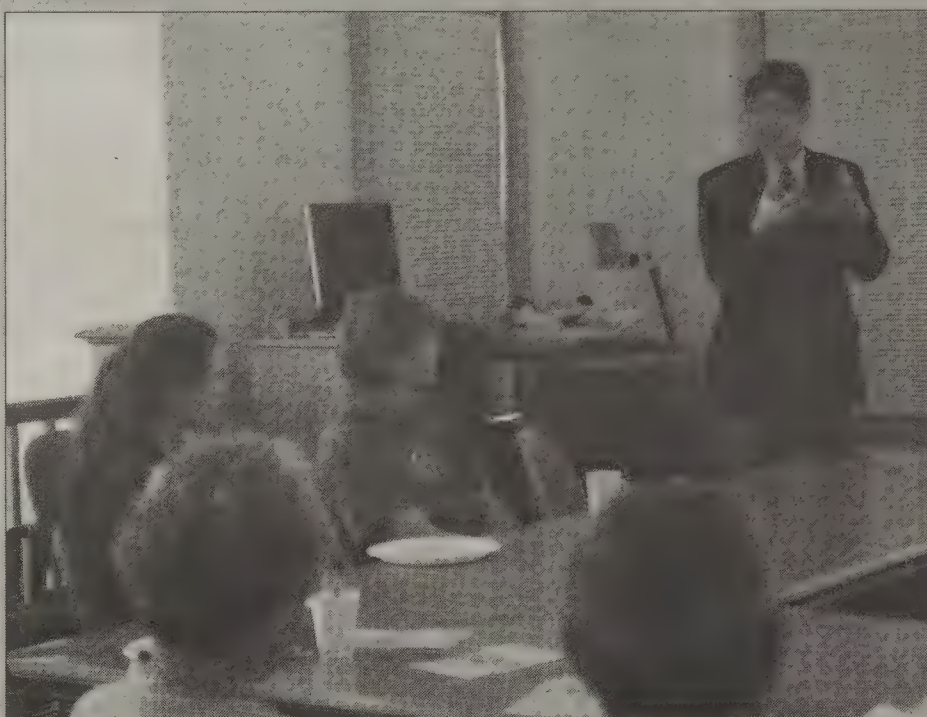
However, popular culture has accepted and embraced what Graf called "heteronormed homosexuals." He remembered that there was a gay couple pictured on the cover of a magazine.

Who were they? "Two affluent white men and their adopted children," said Graf. "How hetero-normal can you get? Do I have to come out twice — once to say that I am gay and once to say that I do not want to get married?"

Assistant Director of Admissions Shawn Rae Passalacqua explained that once homosexuality was accepted, it became "normal" and the activism died down. "There is no activism anymore because the 'image' is comfortable," he said.

Queer theory begs individuals to make themselves uncomfortable, to break down barriers and classifications, to step outside of themselves and question the archaeology of everything they know.

"All of this comfort here is to stabilize the issues," said Essig. "We need it to be fluid. We need to keep moving."



Saila Huusko

WATER WEEK MAKES A SPLASH

Consciousness-raising events included a Hydro-Slam poetry reading, a screening of the classic film "Chinatown," and a lecture entitled "China's stake in Rivers of Southeast Asia," given by Professor Darrin Magee of Hobart and William Smith Colleges (above).



What still makes

LYSISTRATA

so topical?

2,400 years after its inception, Aristophanes' play is still topical and entertaining. Sex and war just never seem to die. What does this play teach contemporary audiences?

by Ariela Yomtovian

"Let's talk about penises," said Assistant Professor of Theatre and Director of Aristophanes' "Lysistrata" Claudio Medeiros '90 as he discussed the play at a preview lunch this past Monday.

Performed for the first time around 410 BCE, "Lysistrata" takes place in Athens during the Peloponnesian War. It is the story of a group of women, led by Lysistrata, who decide to go on a sex strike until a treaty of peace is signed between the Athenians and the Spartans to end the fighting. In simpler terms, "Lysistrata" is a "make love, not war" play, said Medeiros.

This question of "how to approach the idea of war" has been a great challenge for Medeiros during the rehearsal process. Paralleling many of the same problems that face contemporary society, "Lysistrata" is a bold attempt to get people thinking about conflict and peace.

Assembled with the assistance of Associate Professor of Classics Pavlos Sfyroeras, the two choruses guide the audience along in facilitating engagement with the play's serious as well as playful subject matter, while also encouraging interaction with the cast. The audience is a vital part of the performance as the cast frequently breaks down the fourth wall as they escort viewers through this battle of the sexes. Sfyroeras admitted that though "the chorus is the biggest

challenge in the Greek comedy" it also forms "a crucial part of the production."

Another difficult aspect of this play was costume designer Amanda Mitchell's '08 struggle with the creation of visual effective yet not offensive "penis costumes," and the fitting and construction of masks for the chorus. Not only intricate in construction, the masks also manifest the complex relationship faced by chorus leaders Rishabh Kashyap '08 and Justine Katzenbach '08 in finding a balance between being one person as well as being part of unified group.

The distinctive language of Lysistrata also adds an additional element to this play, making it stand out from other performances that have taken place at the College. According to Willie Orbison '08, who plays the role of the Commissioner of Public Safety, the show is "full of alliteration and tongue twister after tongue twister."

Lysistrata will be performed in the Seeler Studio Theatre Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday. Though all five shows are sold out, Medeiros does not want anyone to be discouraged from coming. By calling on the day of the performance or placing your name on a waiting list, persistence will get you in to what seems like a one-of-a-kind performance.

editors' picks

10

Film and Impersonation
BiHall Room 220
4:30 p.m.

Professor of Film and Media Culture Ted Perry delivers a lecture on the impact of Freud and psychoanalytic theory in three influential films.

11

The Lifeblood
Hepburn Zoo
8:00 p.m.

Directed by Aaron Gensler '08, Glyn Maxwell's *The Lifeblood* is a harrowing depiction of the final days of Scotland's Mary Stuart.

Iraq in Fragments
Dana Auditorium
3:00 and 8:00 p.m.

James Longley's documentary explores the ordinary lives of Iraqis in three separate regions as they attempt to survive in a war-torn country.

12

16

Tapes n' Tapes
Higher Ground
Burlington, VT.
8 p.m.

Minneapolis based quartet Tapes n' Tapes blend a sound that is part Pavement, part The Shins, and all playful. Tickets are \$14 at the door.

English soprano has got looks ... and a voice too!

By Andrew Throdahl

ARTS EDITOR

In recent years, a new breed of dramatic soprano has surfaced in the opera world. The factor that distinguishes these women from sopranos of the past is an "advertisability"—an at-times artificial resemblance to Hollywood starlets. Their voices have always struck me as incongruous to their looks. In the case of Anna Netrebko, perhaps the most famous living soprano, comparison has been drawn (like her idol Maria Callas) to such beauties as Audrey Hepburn. Netrebko, who rose from janitor to opera star in a matter of years, has been oscillating between the art world and the pop world,

one minute posing for magazines, the next singing *Il Puritani* at the Metropolitan Opera. This melding of beauty and voice has been lucrative. Apparently tickets to her Salzburg *Traviata* skyrocketed to 2,000 Euros apiece.

Kate Royal, who is prettier than Netrebko in looks and in voice, could be deemed opera's new "it" girl, to use a tacky Hollywood expression. In last Tuesday's concert in the Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall, Royal displayed her wide ranging repertoire and tastes, while striking an uncanny resemblance to Angelina Jolie. Accompanied by veteran accompanist Roger Vignoles, the program traveled geographically from Spain to France, ending in Austria with a thrilling selection of Strauss lieder.

Rather than just belting out the tunes, Royal seemed to have made conscious decisions regarding timbre. Her clarity seemed intentionally murky in Rodrigo's "Cuatro Madrigales Amatorios," which opened the evening. Her voice succeeded here in meshing with the heavily pedaled piano part. She

treated each movement of the cycle, as she did in the rest of the program, with a different character or personification. Certainly, she is an opera singer even outside of the opera house. Her sassy expressions in the third song of the cycle ("De donde venis, amore?") were effectively comic.

The French selection, three songs and one concert aria by Debussy, was, surprisingly, sappier than the Rodrigo. Surely Debussy is at his softest when embalmed by a fellow symbolist. In "Cinq Poemes de Charles Baudelaire," Royal expressed what seemed to be genuine rapture. Her gorgeous, fluffy diction felt quite

at home

in French.

There was

an element

of her ar-

ticulation in the sublime quality to the way she delivered the line, "Je sais l'art d'évoquer les minutes heureuses," in "Le Balcon" (1888).

The piano transcription of Lia's aria from *L'Enfant prodigue* was either not thriving in Vignoles fingers, or was just awkwardly transcribed. It may have been better if Royal and Vignoles had just done the whole Baudelaire set and opted out of the transcription. That said, the aria stood out as one of the more lyrically moving in the first half.

The obscure songs of Joseph Canteloube, written entirely in Provencal, were interesting to hear, if only for the folksy blood Royal extracted from them. The tongue-twisting lyrics of "Lou Boussu" were a virtuosic feat in their own right. A skeptic might argue that "folksy" only implies less classical control, but from the way Vignoles scrambled through the complex piano part, it seemed some casual aplomb is needed just to get through these pieces.

In the closing lieder by Richard Strauss, ("Kornblumen," "Mohnblumen," "Epheu,"



Andrew Negow

Kate Royal proved a regal stage presence last Tuesday evening, singing a varied program of late 19th century and early 20th century late-Romantic fare.

"Wasserrose," "Einerlei," "Ich wollt ein Strausslein binden" and "Als mir dein Lied erklang!") her voices exploded with Wagnerian character. The ecstasy in these examples of Strauss' early output suited Royal well. While Royal came alive, it seemed Vignoles struggled. The piano sounded too harsh, at times even messy.

Later in her career Royal could probably make a terrific Arabella, Sophie (from *Der*

Rosenkavalier) or Countess (in *Capriccio*), given the flexibility, control and clarity of her singing. I would be all too eager to hear her sing Wagner, and the role of Eva in *Die Meistersinger* might be a nice diving point. It is comforting to know that a voice of the calibre of Gundula Janowitz or Regine Crespin has also made it past the image-centered marketing of today's classical music world.

Visiting visual artists get vocal

By Alexxa Gotthardt

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Today marks the second in a series of three lectures organized by the Studio Art Department. An over 20-year tradition for the department, the Visiting Artists Lecture Series seeks to enrich studio art students and art enthusiasts by bringing working artists from around the country into the abiding Middlebury bubble.

The College's rural location may make for efficient, concentrated study. Inspiration, however, often comes from exposure and reaction to the outside world. And while many progressive artists call Middlebury, Vt. and its surrounding area home, the town of less than 10,000 produces nowhere near the amount of creative bounty as cultural centers like New York City, Miami or San Francisco. It is exposure to a more expansive, diverse art world that the Studio Art Department hopes to provide through this month's lectures by mixed-media artist Ingrid Lundt, printmaker Tomas Vu-Daniel and sculptor and installation artist Line Bruntse.

The Visiting Artists Lecture Series, launched over 20 years ago, is made possible in main part by financial support from the Johnson Funds as well as from discretionary funds granted by the College's Committee on the Arts.

While funds are limited and today's art stars are in higher demand than some Hollywood celebrities, the Studio Art Department garners a diverse range of professional, established artists for the series. "We cannot often afford the very famous artists, but we are looking for certain level of professionalism and accomplishment," said Professor of Studio Art John Huddleston. "When we ask an artist to come [to the College], we feel their work is positive, vital and matured."

These qualities prove important criteria for the lectures, as visiting artists are encouraged to speak about their work in terms of artistic development, as opposed to speaking about a single series or theme. Huddleston commented on the benefit of this type of lecture. "We hope to be able to follow growth

of the artist," he said. "It is really interesting for students to see their evolution."

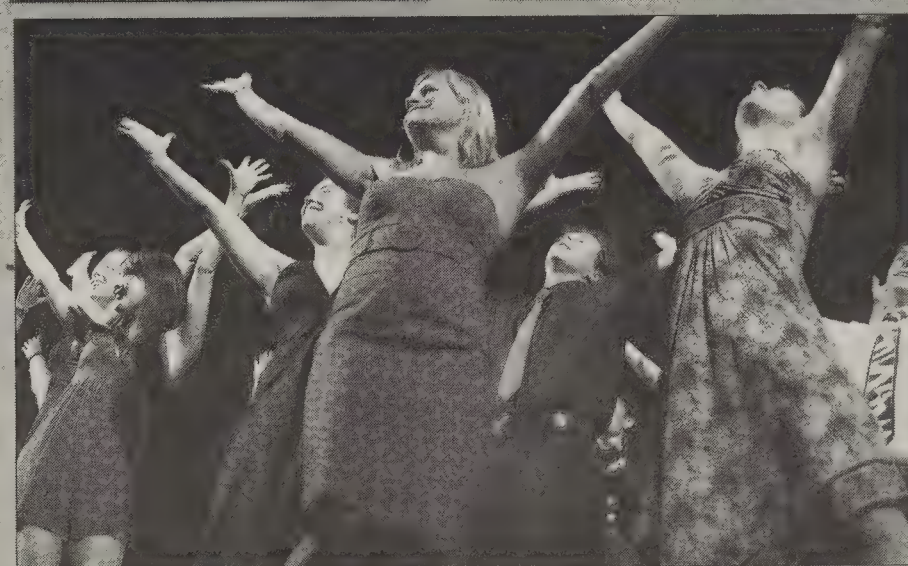
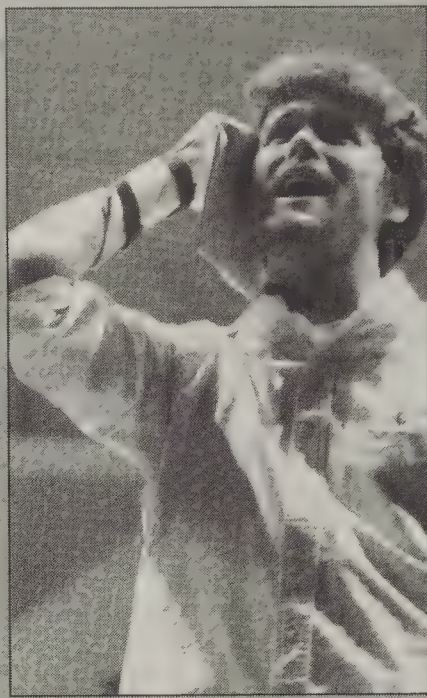
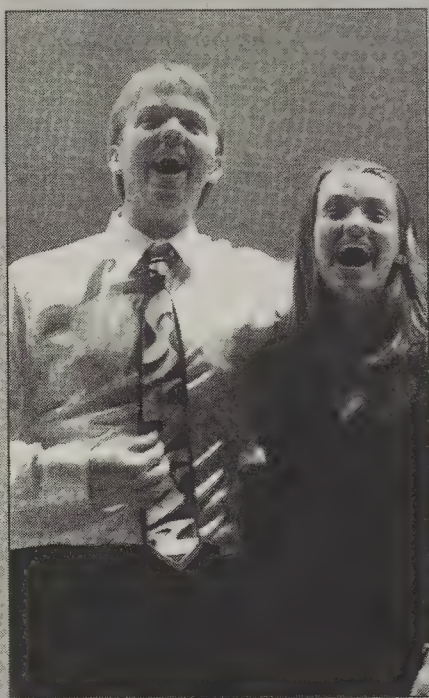
This evolution, revealed in a steady slideshow of work which often begins in college and continues into the present, seems especially valuable for students, many of whom are beginning to think beyond their college years and outside the bounds of Middlebury.

In addition to providing forward-looking insight and a dose of creativity, lectures frequently correspond with specific classes and are required for all students enrolled in Studio Art courses. During their time at Middlebury, visiting artists also drop by Studio Art majors' studios, giving input on their budding theses.

A long tenure and positive reactions from students communicates the series' success. Studio Art major Madeleine Terry '08.5 commented on her own experience with the lecture series. "As a studio major in rural Vermont, I believe that visiting artists bring a much-needed energy and a vitally contemporary perspective to our campus," said Terry.

"This week, I have the opportunity to meet with a prominent New York artist, instructor and Guggenheim fellow Thomas Vu-Daniel in my own studio, as well as to hear him speak about his work and his career. These types of interactions constitute a valuable resource for developing artists at Middlebury, and are critical to my own understanding of my art in a broader context than that which I am used to," she continued.

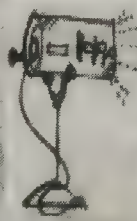
This evening Tomas Vu-Daniel, a painter, printmaker and LeRoy Neiman Professor of Visual Arts at Columbia University, will speak about his work in Twilight Auditorium at 7 p.m. His lecture follows last week's talk "Finding Form: the Narrative Between Drawing and Sculpture," given by visual mixed media artist Ingrid Lundt. On April 17, Line Bruntse, will give the third and final lecture of the series on her sculpture and installation art in Twilight Auditorium at 7 p.m.



Angela Evancie

CABARET TICKLES THE SOFT SPOT FOR BROADWAY

The annual Cabaret took place this past weekend and featured a number of voice students strutting their stuff to several Broadway favorites. Hosted by Teddy Crecelius '08 and Allison Corke '08, many of the numbers came from Loessler's "Guys and Dolls," including the wonderful duet "Marry the Man Today" between Olivia Kerr '08.5 and Stephanie Spencer '09. Brooks' "The Producers" comprised the bulk of the second half and included the humorous "Prisoners of Love" and "Along Came Bialy."



Spotlight on... Heimo Wallner

Born and raised in Austria, C.A. Johnson Artist-in-Residence Heimo Wallner attended the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts before going on to show his work in Austria as well as all over the United States, including New York City, San Antonio, Milwaukee's Hagerty Museum of Art and Amherst. His last exhibition at Middlebury was two years ago during which work of his appeared in the Johnson Pit. Wallner sat down with *The Middlebury Campus* earlier this week to discuss "Wallpaper," his latest exhibition that opened on April 1 in the Johnson Gallery. Sponsored by the Program in Studio Art and open to the public until April 20, "Wallpaper" features a number of Wallner's prints and drawings.

The Middlebury Campus: When did you start creating art?

Heimo Wallner: Oh, you know, we are in a myth realm here, but I did a lot of drawing and painting when I was a kid, and unlike other kids I was not hindered from doing that. My parents were strangely supportive.

TC: When did you create the pieces that are in this exhibition?

HW: There will be two big pieces I made here. There are two prints from Columbia University and there will be a series of small drawings that's an ongoing project I started last year in China. I'm still working on that. I think I made 50 of those drawings here. I live in Austria but I live more and more in Middlebury. I spend a good chunk of the year in the United States. My wife, Hedya Klein, teaches here in the Studio Art Department. It is kind of my base.

TC: When discussing "Wallpaper" you mentioned creating "a vocabulary of emotions" in your work. Can you elaborate on that?

HW: I do agree with that, but it's more that you develop over time a certain vocabulary. I work spontaneously. I start with a project and I see where it leads me. I work associatively and emotions have a big say in that, in what state of mind you are in — tired, awake and all kinds of emotion. But it's not only about that. I think all other daily occurrences — news, books I read, movies I see — it all sneaks into my work. Even other artwork shows that I see. It's kind of the same for everyone. Your brain deals with what you deal with. So I try to follow this flow of thoughts and associations. It's a little bit like the automatic writing of the Surrealists, but it's not completely and I do reflect about what I draw. So it's not quite like that. I try to find out how I think and sometimes I even manage to

surprise myself. Not so often, but sometimes.

TC: Would you say there's a unifying subject matter in your pieces?

HW: That's a funny question. It is and is not because it's always me and my brain. But sometimes drawings lead me into certain themes. One piece that I did here is about Austria and I'm not sure if people will see that, but I know that. A few years ago I did one

piece at Amherst. It dealt with the USA and there was a lot of Americana in it. Cowboys, Indians, Iraq War and George Bush. But I only can keep it up for a certain time. Our trains of thoughts take very weird bends sometimes or go backwards or go somewhere completely else. I like that and I usually — in this case it's not possible — like to do shows where I draw directly on the walls. Then I can walk around the room, continue on one wall, go back, change. You know, like when your brain is idling.

TC: Can you speak to the important connection between body and emotion in your drawings?

HW: I think sometimes it starts literally with an elbow. I start drawing an elbow and out of the elbow follows the

posture of the figure, and out of the posture of the figure follows what the figure is doing. If you've seen my drawings, there's a lot of sexuality, there's a lot of eating and being eaten, there's violence — the fears and the hopes and the desires that I think we all pretty much share. If you read fairy tales for kids this is pretty much human emotions and inner structure in a nutshell. It's about eating, it's about disappearing, appearing. I think of the Brothers Grimm — those are human emotions in pretty much every aspect. So if I use a lot of sexuality it's to establish relations between figures and those relations are often not very subtle. But it's by no means actually pornography. When I draw it takes awhile until the figures start to interact. And there's a state in drawings when the wall starts filling up and then certain dynamics start happening, and this is actually sometimes more the figures than me doing it. While I draw the first figure up, let's say, to the left side, I for sure don't know what will happen four feet further.

— Grace Duggan

he's slept with and drugs he's done — who meets Jessica, an emotionally withdrawn and apathetic 17-year-old, at a party during the Fourth of July. On the surface the two are polar opposites, and yet they find in each other a similarly listless nature that attracts the pair.

The film is set in Portland, Ore and actually uses teenagers in two very demanding roles. The two young leads are played perfectly by Cole Pennsinger and Anna Kavan, with both hitting the proper amount of teenage shoegaze whilst never failing to portray the emotional realism that the roles require. The film, at times, calls to mind Larry Clark (director of the infamous film "Kids") and Portland native Gus Van Sant. However, Katz's naturalistic dialog and assured direction keep this meditation on youthful folly from feeling exploitative — like Clark's films tend to feel — or voyeuristic, in the way of Van Sant's more recent films have tended towards.

However good "Dance Party U.S.A." is, and it is really very good for four-fifths of the film, there are some flaws. The film was shot for a mere \$3,000, and it isn't impossible to tell. The film was shot using the independent filmmaker's new best friend, a digital video camera, which is not usually a distraction for the audience. In this case, though, the film looks like it was shot on a low-end camera, and the color resolution is murky while the sound comes and goes at times. Also, Katz sometimes walks a fine line between slice of life and flat-out boring.

If Katz showed promise in his first film, his second film, "Quiet City," makes good on that promise. "Quiet City" is superior to its predecessor in almost every way. The film revolves around Jamie (played by the wonderfully watchable

Erin Fisher), a visitor to New York from Atlanta, who meets friendly looking, but emotionally withdrawn stranger Charlie (Cris Lankenau). She asks Charlie for directions to a diner where she is supposed to meet her friend. Charlie escorts her to the diner, but the friend never shows, thus leaving Erin with no friends in the city and no place to go. Charlie invites her to spend the night on his couch, which Erin accepts and so begins the film, which shows the day in which they wander around Brooklyn chatting, doing nothing, and quietly, subtly falling in love.

The film — precisely edited, gorgeously shot and wonderfully written (even if it was semi-improvised) — is a marvel. The premise of the film is, more or less, Richard Linklater's "Before Sunrise," but the feel of the film is quite different. Whereas Linklater wanted to show the audience the beginning of a very definite relationship (all while the two leads talk about love, philosophy and what have you), Katz strives to be more subtle. His characters are a little bit harder to pin down, which makes them infinitely more interesting, and their relationship at the end is far more ambiguous than that of Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy at the end of "Before Sunrise," which makes the movie much more intriguing after seeing it.

"Mumblecore" may or may not have a future as a subgenre of independent films. My tendency is to see its future as somewhat limited just by virtue of the fact that there are only so many films that can be made about 20-something hipsters. Even if "mumblecore" is on its way out, the fact is that it did produce, "Quiet City," a genuinely fantastic film, and that's one more fantastic film than most subgenres produce.



for the record

by Melissa Marshall

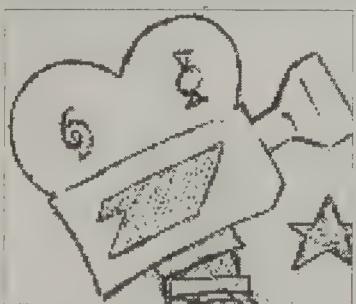
From broccoli and barbeque sauce melted in a Proctor panini to snow boots worn over spring-time leggings to Shakespeare scholars rocking out geology classes, the Middlebury campus seems to be all about mixing the incongruous. So I suppose the success of mashup artist Girl Talk's January concert should not have been such a shock. I mean, the fact that MCAB actually managed to book a creative act absent of alienation is as a rare an occurrence and as pleasant a surprise as a working Creamee machine in Ross Dining Hall, but I personally never got behind the mashup. Maybe it's because I am anal retentive about keeping my foods separate from one another — I am ever vigilant about that deserter pea trying to cozy up to my mashed potatoes. The closest I get to mingling the divergent is wearing brown boots with a black sweater.

Let's talk of individuals whose seemingly incongruous creations are always en vogue. Head of Radio is at it again. The '90s alt, millennial-revolutionary quintet is positioning itself as puppet-master of the media yet again with the release of its single "Nude" in three different stems. In late 2007, the British electronic rockers did not just make the record industry's already waning financial flow skip a beat with their download-only name-your-own-price release — they set the industry's economic ecosphere into cardiac arrest. And just when the uncooperative commerce started collaborating with instead of condemning the MP3, the less ubiquitous, but still vaguely threatening concern of the mashup manifested itself. Furthermore, to twist the metaphorical knife into the already nickel-bleeding industry, Radiohead is promoting the use of their music for remixing, making other artists who complain about creative reconstruction of their works look like "The [ever-villainized and unequivocally lame] Man." But Thom Yorke is not quite the Messiah of market-free music — the Web Site is charging 99 cents per stem-sample.

Where is the line between self-expression and stealing? Dissect DJ Danger Mouse's seminal *The Grey Album*, for example. A mashup of The Beatles' *The White Album* and Jay-Z's *The Black Album*, many of the cuts do not even resemble either source tracks, instead melding into a musical motion that is neither 60s mod nor mercantile hip-hop — delivering an album that is a flawlessly danceable and meditative movement. While Danger Mouse was able to rise above the threatened lawsuits from Shawn Carter by not charging for the album's release, don't lose sleep fretting that you're feeding your appetite for the latest installments in the bastard-pop genre while Danger's little mice starve — thanks to the success of the online-only album, brainchild Gnarls Barkley was born. I know you cynics claim it's easy for established Brits and self-proclaimed auteurs turned multimillion-dollar producers to be in favor of mashups, but lack of notoriety and no Washingtons in sight are not stopping some ambitious and occasionally absurd artists from cropping up.

I mean, look at the viral entity of procrastination known as YouTube. Our generation demands to be a media mouthpiece and apparently has too much time on its hands. My new favorite incarnation of the mashup is The Hood Internet. A Chicago-based band, The Hood Internet specializes in mixing indie-rock with both underground and mainstream hip-hop, releasing all tracks for free on their Web Site of the same name. One of their treasures is R.Kelly vs. Swedish indie-pop darling Jens Lekman. On MP3 blog-aggregator Hype Machine, even 15-year-old boys from Vancouver post their latest creations. My most recent mashup addiction — Crystal Castles vs. Health's "Crime-wave" — is thanks to hotspot Friction NYC.

So while I thought I was incompatible with the mashup, if gangster rappers and skinny white boys with guitars can come together so harmoniously on a track, I am starting to think bootlegs and my stereo can get along after all.



THE REEL CRITIC

by Jason Gutierrez

MOVIE | Dance Party U.S.A. and Quiet City
DIRECTOR | Aaron Katz
STARRING | Erin Fisher, Cris Lankenau

A new wave of filmmaking is sweeping its way through the independent filmmaking world. A whole crop of young directors, taking their cues from movies like John Cassavette's "Shadows," are making slice-of-life films for a new generation of 20-somethings that revolve around the relationships of educated, white, middle-class men and women. These films, which have been cropping up on the program at the SXSW Film Festival for the past few years, have been given the moniker "mumblecore" by the press and are actually producing some of the best direction and most honest writing that has been seen in independent film in quite sometime. And the most talented of this group is a writer-director by the name of Aaron Katz who has just released a double DVD set containing his first two films, 2006's "Dance Party U.S.A." and last year's "Quiet City."

The first film, "Dance Party U.S.A.," is about Gus — a deceptively shallow teenager who likes to spin half-true yarns about girls

Women's lacrosse sticks it to Amherst, pockets sixth win

By Dickie Redmond
STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team won its third consecutive game Saturday, April 5 at Kohn Field, handing Amherst its first loss of the season. The Lady Jeffs fell 14-3 after an almost-flawless effort led by the Panther captains.

"Playing Amherst is always exciting and our game on Saturday definitely lived up to our expectations," said co-captain Reid Berrien '08. "Our team really came together and both the offense and the defense were able to execute everything we had been working on in practice during the past week."

Co-captain Katherine Entwisle '08 delivered one of her strongest and most productive performances of the year and carried the Panthers with five goals. Chase Delano '11 also had a standout game — scoring three goals while adding one assist. Delano has been an important goal-scorer this year and has legitimized the tremendous ability that the class of first-years possess — making it a key asset for the team as it graduates important players at the end of this season.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Amherst	3
Middlebury	14

Over spring break, the women's lacrosse team played Washington and Lee and Gettysburg — both extremely competitive teams — and ended the trip with two losses. The team had a rough game against Washington and Lee, losing 14-8, though they played much better against Gettysburg, losing in overtime and finishing with a hard but well-fought loss.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to pull out a win and ended up losing in overtime which is always very tough," said Berrien. "Although we didn't win, it was a great game against a good team that we'll probably see again."

"After traveling south, the Panthers trekked to Maine to play Colby and had their first win after their two consecutive losses. The Panthers



Meaghen Brown

#8 Kate Barton '09 and the Middlebury defense held Amherst to only three goals on Saturday. Middlebury sits atop the NESCAC standings at 6-0.

won 17-11 against the Mules on March 29, and were led by Mimi Schatz '08, who finished with three goals and three assists. Middlebury played its fourth game on the road in the middle of last week in Williamstown, Mass. — beating the Ephs 13-10, and holding off a late comeback. Similar to their game against Amherst, Delano and Entwisle led the Panthers with a combined seven goals — Delano contributed three while Entwisle scored four — and helped relieve the team after Williams had cut the lead to one.

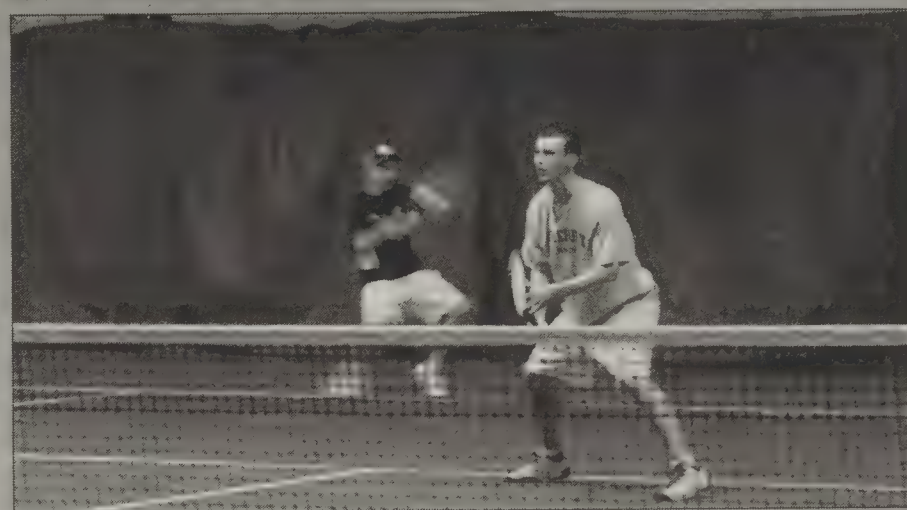
On April 5, the Panthers set the tone of the game in the first 30 seconds off a goal from Schatz, and continued to score two more before the Lady Jeffs answered mid-way through the first. The team outscored its opponent 6-1 in the first half off goals from Delano, Entwisle and Schatz.

Middlebury dominated Amherst for the majority of the game — out-shooting the Jeffs in both halves and limiting their turnovers. The win puts the Panthers in a favorable position in the NESCAC standings, and confirms their ability to win at home. The team is undefeated in conference play and at home this season.

Blair Bowie '09 played most of the game

in goal, and finished with seven saves. In the second half scoring was less concentrated, as many contributed to the convincing win. Sally Ryan '11, Lindsay Winstead '11, Caroline Kirkendoll '09 and Berrien all had one goal in the second half — lifting the Panthers to a victory.

The women's lacrosse team is content with its win, giving Amherst its first loss and building the Panthers' momentum with a three-game winning streak after a tough series of two losses. The Panthers look to extend their winning streak next weekend at Trinity.



Tianze Ma

POISED ATOP THE NESCAC

Andrew Lee '10 and Rich Bonfiglio '11 helped Middlebury beat Hamilton 9-0 at home on April 2. The men also beat Conn. College and Trinity to remain undefeated in NESCAC play.

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INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

The beginning of April marks one of best periods of the entire sports year. — the start of the baseball season, the end of March Madness and the 72 holes at Augusta National Golf Club we all know as The Masters.

April is also significant to Middlebury as it is generally the first time weather allows our Middlebury golfers to utilize the beautiful Ralph Myhre Course.

Though lingering cold temperatures and scattered precipitation has delayed the course's grand opening, anxious Middlebury students have already put on their mud boots to brave the soggy fairways and get a taste of spring golf in Vermont.

Though the greens are not running as true as they are in Georgia, and the galleries will not be roaring for the Panthers' practice rounds, Michael McCormick '09 is just as excited to dust off the clubs and hit the links — and participate in this week's edition of "Inside the Locker Room."

McCormick was the lucky golfer chosen from an impressive list of candidates. Teammate Eric Elderbrock '10 and cousin Erin McCormick '08 joined Mike in an-

The third most famous Michael to play out of Chicago

	Mike McCormick	Erin McCormick	Eric Elderbrock
What is the first club you pull out of your bag when you get to the range?	8-iron	5-iron (0)	56-degree wedge (0)
Strongest facet of your golf game?	Irons and ball-striking	Staying out of the long grass (0)	Fashion (0)
What brand of irons do you use?	Ping	Ben Hogan (0)	Ping (1)
Tiger or "the field" at the Masters this week?	Tiger	Field (0)	Tiger (1)
Favorite breakfast food?	Omelets	Blueberry pancakes (0)	Scrambled eggs (.75)
Dream course to play on?	Augusta National	St Andrews' Old Course (0)	Augusta (1)
Which of your friends is the worst golfer?	Jer Korsh '09 — by far	Me — I didn't get the golfing gene (0)	Brian Cady '11 (0)
final score		0	3.75

swering questions to see who knows him best, in what is our first family edition of "Inside the Locker Room" this spring term.

Were years of Thanksgiving dinners

an advantage for Erin or will the recent time spent together over spring break in Pinehurst, N.C. come in handy for Elderbrock?

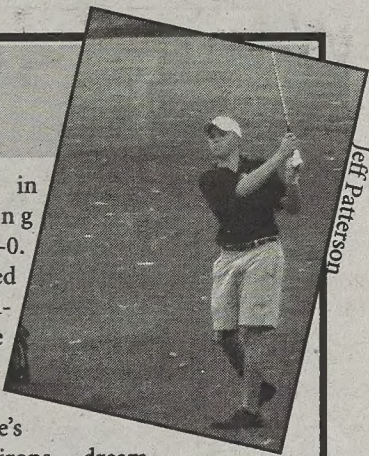
It appears the latter was true as Elder-

brock won in dominating fashion, 3.75-0. He displayed an obvious advantage in the golf-related questions, nailing Mike's choice of irons, dream course and Masters prediction. However, in a somewhat surprising turn of events, he also (somewhat) correctly answered the Oakpark, Ill. native's favorite breakfast, omelets.

McCormick, Elderbrock and the rest of the Panther golf team begin their spring season this upcoming weekend at the Palamounain Invitational at Skidmore College.

Having already qualified for the NES-CAC four-team tournament, the Panthers will use their upcoming tournaments to fine-tune their games in an attempt to repeat last year's conference championship and first-ever berth in the NCAA Tournament.

— Andrew Somberg, Staff Writer



Jeff Patterson

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
3/29 4/2 4/5	Men's Lacrosse	Colby Williams Amherst	13-7 W 7-6 W 15-13 W	Three consecutive league victories give Middlebury a cushion at the top of the NESCAC standings.
4/2 4/2	Softball	Skidmore Skidmore	5-3 W 11-3 W	A doubleheader sweep on the road helped softball get above .500.
4/5 4/6 4/6	Baseball	Rochester	11-5 L 3-1 W 2-1 L	With only one NESCAC victory to date, the baseball team is scratching its collective head.
4/2 4/5 4/6	Men's Tennis	Hamilton Conn. College Trinity	9-0 W 9-0 W 5-4 W	Just like the two lacrosse teams, men's tennis is undefeated in league play, and 10-3 overall.
3/29 4/2 4/5	Women's Lacrosse	Colby Williams Amherst	17-11 W 13-10 W 14-3 W	Just like the men, three consecutive league victories put them on top of the NESCAC standings with a 6-0 record.

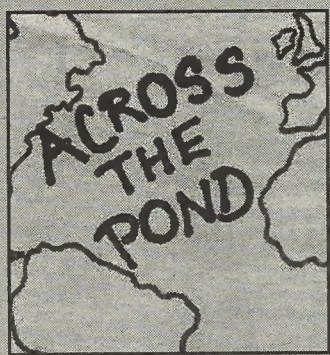
BY THE NUMBERS

5	Number of one-run losses for the Middlebury baseball team this year, as of April 8.
4	Number of wins for the Middlebury baseball team this year, as of April 8, which puts its record at 4-9.
47.5	Percent of the team's 80 runs this season have been scored in those four victories.
+ 8	Run differential for the Middlebury baseball team this year, as of April 8. The Panthers have outscored their opponents 80-72 over the first 13 games.
∞	Earned Run Average for Colby pitcher Jack Peet. In his only appearance so far this year, he gave up an earned run without retiring a batter.

Editors' Picks



Questions	Peter Baumann	Livingston Burgess	James Kerrigan	Jeff Klein	Jeff Patterson
Who will win the number-one doubles match when the Middlebury women play Bowdoin on April 12?	MIDDLEBURY I've learned not to bet against Middlebury in country-club sports.	MIDDLEBURY I'll tell you what's better, Kerrigan. Mixed doubles.	MIDDLEBURY What's better than women's tennis? Women's doubles.	MIDDLEBURY It's hard to argue any other way, and I'm not gonna start now.	MIDDLEBURY The Panther team of Smyser '08 and Emery '09 beat M.I.T.'s top duo by two games. Bowdoin's top team lost to them by five. You do the math.
How many Middlebury baseball games will be played at home this spring?	EIGHT I know that's two more than are on the schedule, but I just have a feeling.	FOUR A full doubleheader will get lost to mud season somewhere along the line.	FIVE What would spring be without a couple cancellations and some last-minute scheduling?	SIX I'm going with the number scheduled.	SIX When the opponents come to Middlebury, the Panthers will bury them six feet under their soggy field.
Will anyone make a hole-in-one at the Masters this year?	YES And it will happen Thursday or Friday on 16, when they put the pin at the bottom of the bowl.	NO Gotta play the percentages here ... or would that go the other way?	NO "The normally reserved Augusta crowd [will NOT] be going wild."	NO And I think the odds are with me on this one...	YES "Cinderella story. Outta nowhere, now, about to become the Masters champion. It looks like a mirac... It's in the hole!"
Which NBA team will earn the Western Conference's eighth seed?	DENVER They're doing their best to give it away, but I wouldn't be able to call myself a fan if I didn't stick with them.	GOLDEN STATE One word ... scrappy, scrappy, scrappy.	GOLDEN STATE Three of the Warriors last five games are against lowly teams. Plus, Baron Davis' beard is quite thick.	DENVER The Warriors' high-risk, high-reward style of play will finally catch up with them.	DENVER Maybe it's just because I'm hungry, but I could go for eight chicken Nuggets right now.
How many games will the Bruins win in their series against the Canadiens?	TWO Ah, the playoffs are here. Now at least some people might watch.	TWO Boston deserves a little credit, but when in doubt, err on the side of Canada.	ONE The Bruins will "Hab" just as much trouble as they did during the regular season.	ZERO Boston will be swept off the ice.	FOUR That is what they'll need to advance to the next round.
Career Record	35-34 (.507)	5-5 (.500)	55-64 (.462)	14-10 (.583)	73-84 (.465)



by Adam Clayton

Unemployed philosopher and football manager Jose Mourinho once claimed that people look at sport and bring to it the negative aspects of our society, projecting individual and societal feelings of shame and guilt upon those in the sports world. Mourinho, defensive guru on the football pitch, was also a master of offense off of it, shifting attention to rival managers and teams and distorting reality to suit his team's needs, a genius of modern-day football and psychology.

Politics is in many ways eerily similar, and indeed Hillary Clinton would have done well to hire the comical Lusitan during her latest campaign shuffle-up. But the true reality of sports and politics is that we not only hold these people to different societal standards, but that we occasionally hold them to very few standards at all. Take, for instance, the fascist salute of Paolo Di Canio for Lazio in 2005, which brought him a measly one-game ban and 10,000 Euro fine as well as the adoration of thousands of fascist skinhead fans that purchase a large portion of the club's season tickets. Likewise, countless arrests of sports stars are often tolerated as consequences of fame, and antics that would get a 15-year-old kid sent to a juvenile center are spun into profitable entertainment. Lies and blatant reneges of promises by politicians are daily occurrences, common sense and reality skewered in debates such as whether Bill Clinton was actually being 'hyper-accurate' in his definition of 'sexual relations.'

So it comes as no surprise that yet another sport has become engulfed in scandal. Formula One recently found itself in the unenviable position of defending the president of its governing body, Max Mosley. Son of the one-time leader of Britain's Union of Fascists, who modeled his party and himself on Benito Mussolini's inclusive political movement and appealing character cult, and whose mother was quite understandably bowled over by Hitler, Mosley was exposed by *The Sun* for hosting a five-hour S&M romp with five Nazi-themed hookers that left him with "sizeable whip wounds." The first official remark on the cavorting Mosley's historical escapades was from Formula One CEO Bernie Ecclestone, who said "Knowing Max, it might be all a bit of a joke." Besides the strange insinuation that Max was acting out of humorous intent and that those intentions were misread, Ecclestone fails to grasp the fact that Max is married with two kids, and that five hookers is even more illegal than one. According to Bernie's theory, Max's April Fool's Day prank involved Max saying "I'll take all five," dressing them up as his parents would have approved and joking with them each for consecutive hours until it stopped being funny.

Of course, looking to the guardians of our sport to ensure a decent sense of morality among our sporting elite when they condone such behavior makes it hard for anyone to believe that our cultural pastimes are victims of unfair attention from the media. Yet much like the 'Genocide Olympics' and other recent sporting debacles, it is likely to be up to the sponsors to cast the final vote in ridding sports of such moral digression. Corporate sponsors are just as vulnerable to negative reactions against the sport as they are impacted by its positive exposure to fans. The power of sports fans to evoke positive moral change is as succinct as our options as a consumer, and thus capitalism will ironically prove to seal the fate for this Formula One guardian Max Mosley and his fascist fantasies.

When riding, Abbott does not horse around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

last year, she returned to campus this fall to captain the team and now holds the only two High Point awards in the program.

The Middlebury Equestrian Club operates somewhat differently than other athletic programs at the College. Riders of all capabilities are encouraged to participate in weekly lessons at a stable in New Haven, about 15 minutes outside of Middlebury. There riders range in experience from those who have never seen a horse before to those who were raised on equestrian competition. Seasoned athletes train alongside beginners in an environment that remains at once relaxed and focused, but is "very different from what I grew up with," according to Abbott.

Working alongside coach Kate Selby, the riders who are registered with the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) compete in both the fall and spring seasons. While 20 students are currently enrolled in the program, only seven are members of the IHSA and attend shows, at which they com-

pete in divisions according to skill level. At the culmination of each event, individual points are tallied and team totals ranked. Though Middlebury's equestrian team rarely produces enough riders to fill each spot in each division, Abbott and her teammates have in the past managed to overcome the size of the program to achieve high standings in overall school rankings. At the UNH meet, for example, Middlebury "only had four people, but we ended up doing really well," said Abbott.

On the morning of March 15, Abbott prepared to learn the names of the horses she would ride later that day. Instead of accompanying their own horses to events, riders are assigned horses through a random draw.

"You never know what you're going to get," said Abbott, as a horse may be particularly temperamental.

For Abbott, size has often proven an issue in the past. "I'm one of the smallest riders on the team, but for some reason, I always draw the biggest horses," she noted. Compet-



Courtesy

Parmigan Abbott '08 (second from right) won the High Point award at the UNH meet.

ing in both the jumping class and flat class events, Abbott drew horses Whisper and Lefty. "I was the last one to ride Whisper, so I'd watched her with other riders and she had refused a fence with each one of them," said Abbott. "Needless to say, I was not that excited about getting on her, thinking she was a bad draw."

After completing one practice circle with Whisper, Abbott began the course. Riding from jump to jump, she guided her horse flawlessly through the course, mastering the previously unruly Whisper to finish first in her division.

Thrilled with this initial success, Abbott moved onto her flat class event with anticipation. "I was definitely nervous before my flat class as I knew I had placed first in jumping and had a shot at High Point, especially since I had drawn a good horse for flat," said Abbott. Once again, Abbott proved her outstanding ability as she completed various trot and canter exercises in front of a panel of judges. After earning the top score in her class, she learned that she had won the High Point distinction for the second time in her career.

For Abbott, the most rewarding aspect of riding is not the accumulation of ribbons (of which she has many), but rather the experience of working so closely with another animal. "It's really cool to be able to get to know a horse really well, and both of you can progress together a lot, which is great," she said. Though she graduates in May, Abbott's achievements will have made a mark on the Middlebury riding program that will assuredly last long after she leaves campus. The one who will miss her most? Her horse, Dan.



Rich Patterson

CONFERENCE LOSS

Despite the advice coach Bob Smith gave to reliever Matt Joseph '09 and his infielders late Sunday afternoon, Middlebury could not come back from a 2-1 deficit to Wesleyan. The Panthers dropped two out of three games to the Cardinals in Middletown, Conn., winning the middle game, 3-1, behind the strong pitching of Nick Angstrom '11.

Women scratch out a win vs. an Ivy power

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

on a team in quite this situation. "We are an incredibly young team," said LaPlante. "After graduating nine seniors last year, we have a ton of new players, many of which have never even played together."

The women spent their spring break on a training trip in Florida working on fundamentals and learning to integrate many different styles.

"At the beginning of the season, the starting lineup had five girls who had never played together," said LaPlante. But the hard work down south and the victory against Yale have truly united this team.

Three younger players emerged this weekend as standout performers. Amelia Noble '11 played solid defense, contributing to a team-low of six goals allowed over the four games. It should be noted that there were an average of 11.58 goals scored per game over the course of the tournament, but Middlebury only allowed 1.5 goals per game.

Much of the credit to the defensive prowess of the Panthers goes, naturally, to goalie Kristen LaPlante '10, who made a number of fantastic saves to ensure an undefeated weekend. Additionally, Sarah Black '10 played the driver position impressively.

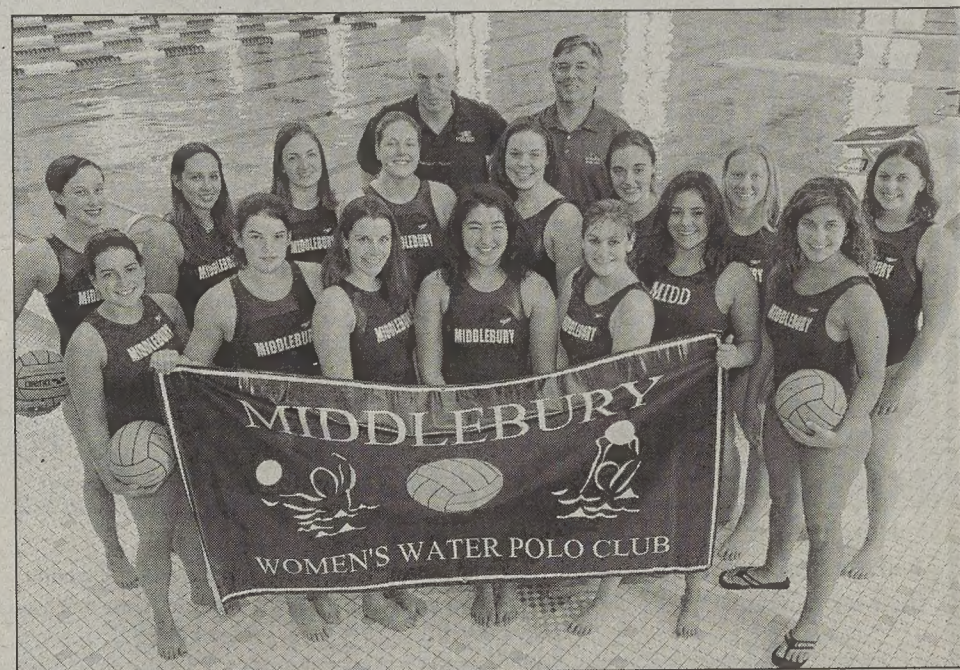
"She had a great weekend and scored a

significant portion of Middlebury goals," said Jeannie LaPlante. "Her decision making and drives were quick and efficient."

All in all, this weekend was a screaming success for the water polo program. Every single Middlebury player scored at least once — a testament to the offensive versatility of the

team. The Panthers have been annually notorious for their momentum-breaking defense, which proved to be insurmountable once again.

If Middlebury is able to capture its first in the New England title, the team will head onto the national competition in Oregon later this



Courtesy

Despite losing nine seniors from last year's team (above), water polo is seeded first in New England.

Petty's '09 six goals were anything but petty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

low-percentage perimeter shots. Stone, Smith and Jim Cabrera '08 are the real catalysts for the offense.

Their movement with and without the ball creates space and openings for all of the other guys around them to step up, but when they are not pushing the envelope, the offense can cool off without that spark that leads to high-percentage shots.

Williams opened the second quarter with

back-to-back goals to tie the game at three, but this proved to be as close to a Williams lead as there would be for the entire game. Stone found the back of the net once more and Matt Ferrer '09 put in solid work on the high crease to put away a man-up goal before halftime and re-establish a two-goal Panther advantage.

All-American attackman Jim Cabrera '08 has found a new role as an offensive midfielder this season. He has been asked to move

into this role to try and get him matched up favorably against short-stick defenders while the attackmen occupy the long-poles. This tactic worked to perfection as Cabrera burned his defender from the top of the box and unleashed a laser to extend the lead to three in the early going of the second half.

The pesky Ephs put up a quick pair to cut the deficit back to one with 14 minutes left in the game but their run was subdued as Ferrer scored off a feed from whom else but Smith.

The Ephs really made things interesting as they scored with a minute left to bring themselves within one. The momentum had clearly shifted towards the visitors when an Eph attackman beat his man and had a one-on-one with Pete Britt '08, who was up to the task. The keeper stepped out and made a picturesque stickside-high stuff to keep the Panthers on top.

The Ephs almost got another chance as they appeared to stymie a Middlebury clear, but Matt Virtue '10 beat two Ephs in a ground-ball scrum and put in a great individual effort to resurrect the broken clear by himself.

Though the Panthers have shown how potent they can be on both offense and defense at any time, the real improvement over last year's campaign is their play in close games. Last year, the team lost four games in overtime and two more by two goals or less while only winning two games by two or fewer goals.



Mike Bayersdorfer

Williams put up a good fight on April 2, but in the end Dave Campbell '09 and the Panthers came out on top, 7-6. Middlebury also beat Amherst on the road, 15-13, three days later.

Track coaches opt for cautious races at home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

The women had a little better time of team-scoring than the men, chalking up 191 points. They were strong across all the distances, with wins from Anjuli Demers '10 (200m, 26.36), Grace Close '11 (400m, 1:00.89), Sophia Spring '11 (1,500m, 4:49.36), Laura Dalton '10 (400m hurdles, 1:06.05), Sarah Wilson '08 (pole vault, 3.0 meters) and the 4x400m relay team of Demers, Dalton, Simone Weisman '09 and Elizabeth Faust '11.

The Panther women might actually have picked up the win on the day, had they not sacrificed some points to keep from overtaking one of their strongest runners. Alexandra Krieg '09, who was an indoor All-American in the 5,000m this winter, came in right on Spring's heels in the 1,500m and was closely trailed by Kate Hirschboeck '08. But while Hirschboeck doubled up in the 800m (second, 2:23.43), Krieg and all the other women Middle entered in the 5,000m dropped out after seven and a half laps, ceding the race's points to Bowdoin and Springfield.

Beatty explained that the team's distance coaches "just felt that, given what people had done so far, they needed to run a 3K. We told the other coaches, that was pre-planned. It's actually not that uncommon a thing in track

and field."

The two Middlebury teams had some conspicuous absences on the day, particularly men's co-captains Ian O'Reilly '08 and Jimmy Butcher '08. Both are key parts of the men's middle- and long-distance crews, and though Wood and others, including Russell Griggs '10 and Gonzalez-Stewart, stepped up well, the loss of two captains is always keenly felt. In addition, neither Pat Sedney '08 nor Kris Williams '11 competed in the pole vault.

O'Reilly and Butcher both have minor injuries that would not have kept them out of a more significant meet, and Sedney was interviewing for a job. All three should be back in fine form for the all-important NESCAC championship meet on April 26.



Andrew Ngeow

Chrissy Fulton '08 finished seventh in the javelin throw, with a toss of 25.76 meters at the Middlebury Invitational. Fulton's two points here helped the Panthers edge Bowdoin 191-183 for second place.

The Middlebury Great Eight

Rank	3/20	Team	Not Cap's Comments...
1	7	Men's Lax (9-0)	Beating two NESCAC foes is one thing, getting that many people into Fletcher's basement is another.
2	4	Tennis	Despite fighting for court time with anxious Midd kids, both teams have earned some important wins.
3	7	Women's Lax (6-2)	Panthers should stay in New England if they want to avoid their first three-loss season since 1998.
4	3	Track & Field	We're all for training consistency, but scratching runners five laps early is no way to move up the Great Eight rankings.
5	2	Softball (7-7)	The real question is, can the women beat the "Troopers"?
6	6	Baseball (4-9)	Imagine what would have happened if the Panthers played the St. Louis Cardinals last weekend.
7	5	Women's Golf	Now that the NCAA drug-testing talk is behind them, the women can climb up in these steroid-free power rankings.
8	1	Men's Golf	After driving three and a half hours in search of a dryer, more playable course, the men still found their drives plugging. Good decision, boys.



Ryan Scurra

Mike Stone '09 leads the men's team in scoring this season with 31 points (19 goals and 12 assists). He and his teammates have won all nine of their games this season.

sportsbriefs

Ultimate Frisbee team has two weeks of success

The Middlebury men's Ultimate Frisbee team has enjoyed a highly successful spring season, capturing one tournament title and reaching the finals of another over the past two weeks.

The squad traveled down to Georgia for spring break, taking part in the College Southern and High Tide tournaments. After going 6-2 at College Southern on March 22-23, the team moved on to High Tide on March 25-27, winning all eight games on the way to taking the tournament title. After back-to-back wins to open the event, the team reeled off four straight 13-8 victories before clobbering Union 13-2 in the semifinals. The final against St. Olaf was a back-and-forth battle for the first half before Middlebury pulled away for good, winning 13-7.

Coming off its victory over spring break, the team hit the road once again, heading to New Haven, Conn. last weekend for the Yale Cup, which featured the 20 best teams in the Northeast. After going 1-3 in pool play on April 5, Middlebury went on a tear through the bracket. The squad defeated Vermont and Wesleyan in the first two rounds before edging Harvard 10-9 in the semifinals, avenging an earlier loss in the tournament. In the finals, the team lost a close one to Williams, 13-11, to finish in second place.

— Zamir Ahmed, Managing Editor

Softball sweeps Skidmore, then is swept by R.P.I.

After splitting its four games since its return from Ft. Myers, Fla., the softball team now boasts a 7-7 record as it heads into the meat of its NESCAC schedule.

Last Wednesday, the Panthers traveled to Skidmore for a doubleheader against the Thoroughbreds. Middlebury jumped out to an early lead in the opener, scoring four runs in the first two innings on its way to a 5-3 victory. With co-captain Katelyn Cannella '08 sidelined with a shoulder injury, Megan Margel '11 and Leslie Crawford '11 picked up the slack offensively. Margel finished the day 3-for-4 with an RBI and one run scored and Crawford added two runs of her own. Co-captain Brittany Burke '08 was superb in the circle, scattering eight hits over seven innings while striking out three.

The Middlebury lineup came out even stronger in game two, scoring 11 runs on 15 hits. Margel had another stellar game offensively, picking up six RBIs while going 5-for-6 at the plate. Geena Constantine '11 continued Middlebury's pitching prowess, giving up only one earned run in her seven innings on the way to an easy 11-3 victory.

This Tuesday, the Panthers took the field looking to continue their winning ways against RPI. Unfortunately, the Panthers found the hosts to be much less accommodating than the Thoroughbreds from a week earlier. The Cardinals bounced out to an early 5-0 lead in the opener behind an early home run from Jen Bach, and then weathered a late Panther rally to earn a 5-3 victory. Middlebury received another strong outing from Burke, who gave up five runs on six hits, while also going 2-for-3 at the plate.

In the second game, Middlebury pitcher Ali McAnaney '11 gave up only three runs over six innings, but it was not enough as the Panthers were only able to scrape across one of their own against the 15-3 Cardinals. The loss dropped Middlebury to .500 on the year.

The Panthers return to action this weekend, hosting a series against Wesleyan. The team will play a single game Friday at 5 p.m. before taking the field Saturday for a twinbill. The first game of that doubleheader is scheduled to begin at noon.

— Peter Baumann,
Assistant Sports Editor

Water polo preps for its N.E. championship

By Jake Cohen
STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury women's water polo team impressively won its own invitational this past weekend with poise, command and authority. The Panthers captured the victory in each of the four games they played, including a nailbiter against perennial rival Yale. The success in this past weekend's competition and a solid showing in a tournament earlier this year makes Middlebury the number-one seed and clear favorite heading into the New England championship this upcoming weekend at Wesleyan.

WOMEN'S WATER POLO

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Yale	3
Middlebury	5

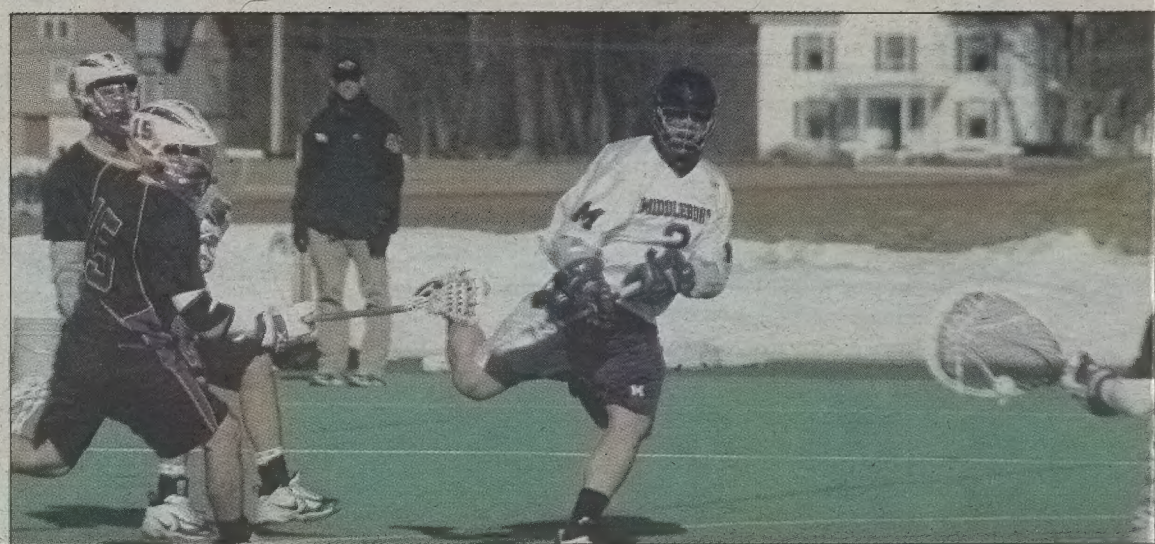
In the New England division three teams usually emerge

each year as the title contenders — Middlebury, Yale and Dartmouth. This year, Middlebury is unquestionably the team to beat. After a punishing 8-1 win in the opening game against Williams, the Panthers suited up to play the biggest match of the tournament on Saturday night versus Yale.

From the first swim off, the crowd knew this showdown would be electrifying. After a series of fantastic defensive stings by Middlebury and some crucial errors by the Bulldogs, the Panthers were able to capitalize on rare opportunities and made a statement with a tight 5-3 victory.

The success of Middlebury at its own invitational is particularly important this year. Jeannie LaPlante '08, who has been playing on the team since her first year, never played

SEE WATER POLO, PAGE 22



Ryan Scurra

Jim Cabrera '08 fires one of his game-high nine shots at Williams goalkeeper Michael Gerbush. Cabrera's one goal, at the 11:42 mark of the third period, turned out to be the difference as Middlebury beat the Ephs, 7-6, on April 2.

Purple people eaters top Ephs, Jeffs

By Jeb Burchenal
STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, the Panthers played host to a talented Williams team that was coming off a big win at Bates the previous weekend. It

was the second of only five home games for the Panthers this season.

Middlebury came out of the gates firing, accumulating 12 shots on goal in the opening quarter. On the season, Middlebury is out-shooting its opponents by an average of nine shots per game. Williams started the scoring on its first man-up of the game only five minutes into the game. The aggressive Panther man-down unit found itself a little over-extended and Williams exploited this by bringing cutters around from the backside to the soft, middle part of the zone. Though they gave up an early goal, the man-down unit held Williams without a shot during its only other opportunity late in the third quarter.

Middlebury answered right back only eight seconds later after

a beautiful pass from Dave Campbell '09 turned into a Pete Smith '10 goal. After an eight-minute drought for both teams that was characterized by staunch defense and off-target perimeter shots, Mike Stone '09 sliced to the cage and delivered his team-leading 18th goal of the season. Rory Sanborn '09 tacked on the final goal of the first quarter after an assist from the team's leading feeder, Smith, who is averaging 2.1 assists per game on the season.

The first quarter was a perfect cross-section of the Middlebury offense on the season. When the offense is fluid and players are moving on and off the ball it is impossible to stop, but at times the offense seems to stagnate and players settle for

SEE PETTY'S '09 SIX, PAGE 23

Abbott rides Whisper, makes noise

By Emma Gardner
STAFF WRITER

While the Middlebury Equestrian Club has not garnered quite as much media attention as the Quidditch team this year, the riding team has nonetheless seen a great level of success during its fall season and currently this spring. Adding a significant number of ribbons and accolades to

the team's collection over the past four years has been Ptarmigan Abbott '08, assistant captain and star rider of the Equestrian Club. On March 15, Abbott earned the High Point award for Middlebury at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Equestrian Meet, attaining the most prestigious distinction in equestrian competition.

Since her arrival on campus

in the fall of 2004, Abbott has brought a level of talent and expertise to the riding program that has consistently produced impressive results. In her sophomore year, she became the first recipient of the High Point award in the history of Middlebury's Equestrian Club. After studying abroad

SEE WHEN RIDING, PAGE 22

Springfield fields two winning teams this early in spring



Jane Yoon

Micah Wood '10 (third from left) flies to a fourth-place finish in the 100-meter dash at the Middlebury Invitational on Saturday.

By Livingston Burgess
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Both of Middlebury's track teams started off their post-break outdoor seasons at home Saturday, focusing primarily on individual development at the expense of their team scores.

Springfield College won handily on both the men's and women's sides of the Middlebury Invitational, outpacing the home team as well as Bowdoin and Colby-Sawyer with 283.5 men's points and 229 women's. The Panthers showcased many of

their strengths, though, with high finishes in several events despite having to scratch a number of key athletes, due either to injury or training consistency.

The Middlebury men notched one event win on the day, as Connor Wood '11 gutted out a tough home stretch in the 800-meters to hold off a pair of Springfield runners. Wood posted a time of 1:59.86, breaking two minutes for the first time in outdoor competition this season. He contributed nine of the team's 93 total points.

"[Wood] really showed us what he can

do," said head coach Martin Beatty. "He was under two minutes, and he can go further down, too. He's a freshman who's just coming into his own, and a terrific worker. I really like his turnover ... this was not a big surprise for us."

Another first-year, Adam Dede '11, garnered second place in the pole vault with a height of four meters, and Micah Wood '10 was fourth in the 100-meter dash at 11.57.

Other high placers included Andres Gonzalez-Stewart '09 (third in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, 10:27.57), Ben Fowler '09

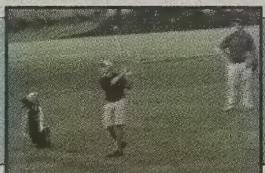
(fourth in the 400-meter hurdles, 1:00.71) and Greg Bassell '08, who shattered his personal best in the hammer throw (fourth, 38.92 meters) and qualified for the NESCAC championship meet.

"This is a big milestone for him," said Beatty of Bassell, who was ebullient after eclipsing his previous mark by over four meters. "I knew it would happen this spring because all through the winter his spins have been looking great."

SEE COACHES OPT, PAGE 23

this week in sports

Inside the Locker Room:
Mike McCormick '09
Who knows the stylish golfer better? page 21



games to watch

Men's lacrosse vs. Trinity, April 12 at 1 p.m.
Softball vs. Wesleyan, April 12 at 2 p.m.



Women annihilate Amherst
Blair Bowie '09 made seven saves and Katherine Entwistle '08 scored five goals, page 20